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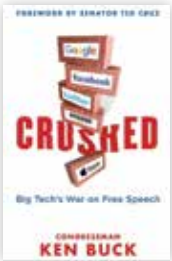

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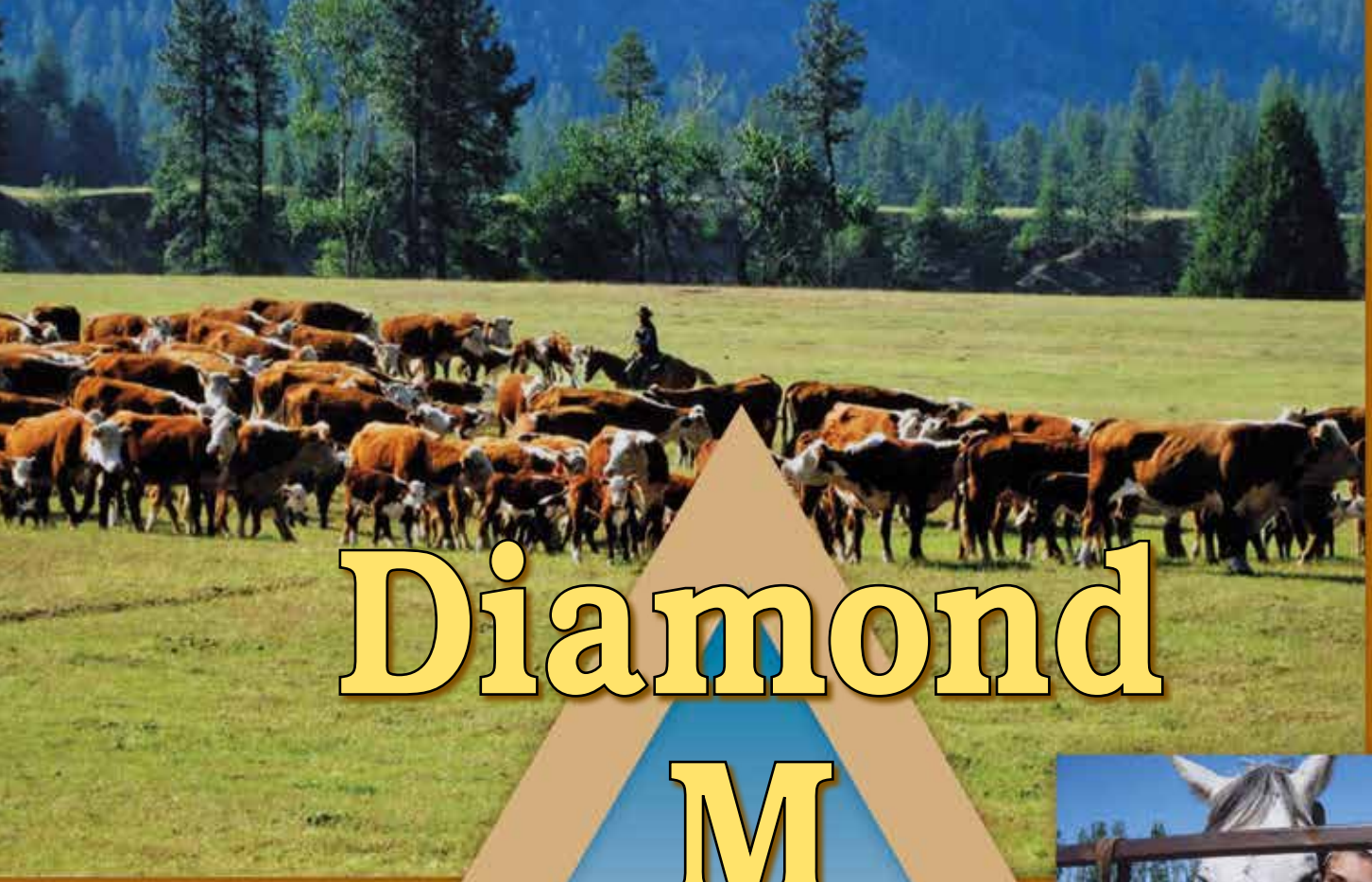

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Christianity and Socialism

Karl Marx, the father of communism, called religion "the opium of the people." He also wrote, on another occasion, that "it is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but on the contrary it is their social existence that determines their consciousness."

Marx believed that the communist revolution would change the supposedly malleable consciousness of men by changing their social existence. So how would men be changed under communism? Regarding religion specifically, Marx believed they would no longer have any need for "the opium of the people." Marx was an atheist, and under communism he envisioned that everyone else would abandon their religion and become atheists as well. Of course, he could not have been more wrong.

Christians who support socialism should carefully consider Marx's antipathy toward religion. After all, Marx (along with Friedrich Engels) wrote *The Communist Manifesto*, the most famous of all socialist literature. The fact that this manifesto is called a *Communist* manifesto should not be misunderstood as diminishing its importance in the socialist canon. In fact, as Engels noted, the *Manifesto* was originally going to be called *The Socialist Manifesto* before the decision was made to change the title prior to publication.

Christians who support socialism should also consider what happens to people of faith when communists acquire absolute power. Far from religion disappearing naturally because the people no longer have any use for this "opium," the communists persecute people of faith. Yet no matter the extent of the persecution — no matter how many people of faith are imprisoned, tortured, or killed — the communists are unable to eradicate the "opium" that they so despise.

The communists therefore attempt to infiltrate and control the supposed opium of the people. They even place their agents inside religion. This is not just for the purpose of monitoring people of faith, but also for the purpose of subverting the people's faith from inside the churches. In the case of Christianity, the communists seek to replace the Gospel of Christ with the gospel of Marx. Portraying Jesus as a socialist is a manifestation of this bait and switch.

Of course, this insidious effort to subvert Christianity from inside the churches is not limited to communist countries. It is global, and it is ongoing. Yet even though communists and socialists are able to lead many of the faithful astray through their subversion, they are unable to trick many others into losing their faith. In China, where the Christian churches allowed by the communists must abide by communist dictates, underground churches have been created by the faithful outside the communist-controlled churches, despite the grave dangers to the faithful who attend these churches.

According to socialist/communist theory, the state is supposed to wither on the vine after communism comes to power. In practice, however, the communist state clings to its power, and that power is used to suppress religion, which, the communist totalitarians believe, is an unacceptable competing loyalty to the state.

So is it possible to be both a Christian and a socialist? The answer is no, for the simple reason that Christianity and socialism are incompatible.

And could Jesus have been a socialist? The answer is no, once again. If Jesus were a socialist, He could not have been a Christian, yet He is the founder of Christianity.

We encourage our readers to read the cover story "Was Jesus a Socialist?" by Selwyn Duke, which examines this question in much more detail.

Finally, we wish everyone a very blessed Easter. Christ is risen, and there is nothing the enemies of God can do to change this reality. Nor, for that matter, is there anything they can do to destroy what is in the hearts of men. They may break the physical body, but they cannot destroy the immortal soul.

— *Gary Benoit*

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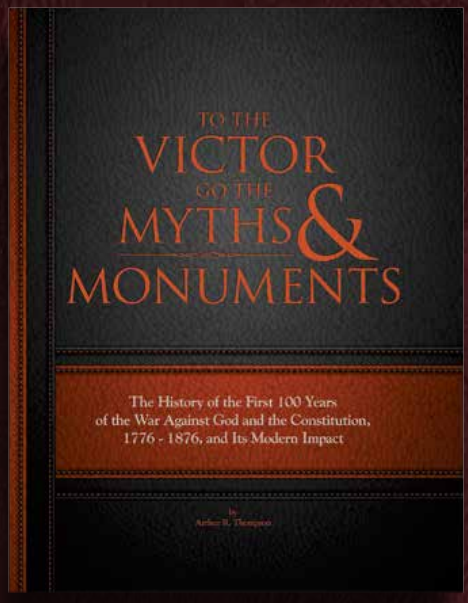
To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments

To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments details the history behind the organized efforts to subvert our freedoms — history that needs to be read by every American.

(2016, 492pp, pb, 1/$14.95ea; 2-14/$13.95ea; 15+/$12.95ea)



Myths vs. Facts — DVD Set

This is a 40-part DVD series hosted by Arthur R. Thompson, CEO of The John Birch Society. This DVD series takes viewers through Thompson's 2016 book, *To the Victor Go the Myths & Monuments: The History of the First 100 Years of the War Against God and the Constitution, 1776-1876, and Its Modern Impact.*

(2019, 4-DVD set, 333 total mins, 1-4/$29.95ea; 5-9/$24.95ea; 10-19/$19.95ea; 20+/$14.95ea)

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Scientists to "De-extinct" Woolly Mammoth by 2027

Like so many science-fiction classics whose technology has now become a reality, it appears that a real-life Jurassic Park may soon be coming to a city near you — except it would probably have to be called "Cenozoic Park."

According to a January 29 Medium post, Texas-based genetics and bioscience company Colossal expects its ability to genetically modify species in the womb will be at humanity's disposal within four years, and claims its project to resurrect the famous yet extinct woolly mammoth will be complete by 2027. The company's teams "have collected viable DNA samples and are editing the genes that will allow this wonderful megafauna to once again thunder through the Arctic."

Since the woolly mammoth's DNA is a 99.6-percent match with the Asian elephant's, the embryo will be created in the womb of an Asian elephant, employing CRISPR genome editing to replace any missing links in the mammoth's DNA with Asian elephant DNA. Genetic engineers will then transfer the embryo to an African elephant, which is larger than an Asian elephant and would thus have an easier time delivering a hybrid calf. Colossal wants to use the calves to repopulate parts of the Arctic where they historically lived.

The resurrection of the woolly mammoth leads to a wider discussion about reviving species in general, particularly long-extinct species such as the mammoth. What happens when we start engineering animals we only vaguely know about, whose behavior we don't understand, and whose interactions with human beings we can only guess at?

Can we fully anticipate that these resurrected species won't, either directly through feeding patterns or indirectly through disease, precipitate the extinction of vital plant and animal life — or even our own extinction?

And what happens when these techniques are applied to human beings? Could this lead to a new era of eugenics in which entire races are wiped out via selective breeding?

Aunt_Spray/iStock/Getty Images Plus

"Street Takeovers" Pushing Limits of Law Enforcement

Since the Covid-19 pandemic began, "street takeovers" have become a popular activity in cities nationwide, leading to dangerous situations for participants and law enforcement alike, and in some cases causing injury and death.

Street takeovers were defined by *MotorTrend* last year as "a large group of cars 'taking over' an intersection or parking lot…. Sometimes referred to as 'side shows,' participants in street takeovers do donuts and burnouts with large crowds gathering dangerously close to the action. Sometimes tires explode, bystanders get hit by cars, fights break out, or even shootings occur, but none of that has stopped hundreds of people from taking part in or watching these unruly takeovers."

YouTube

The takeovers also function as a cover for criminal activity in the form of flash mobs robbing businesses. Social media is used to share the takeovers instantly and announce the next intersection flash mob. Frequently the takeovers last just long enough to give participants the thrill of the risky behavior — and then get away before police arrive.

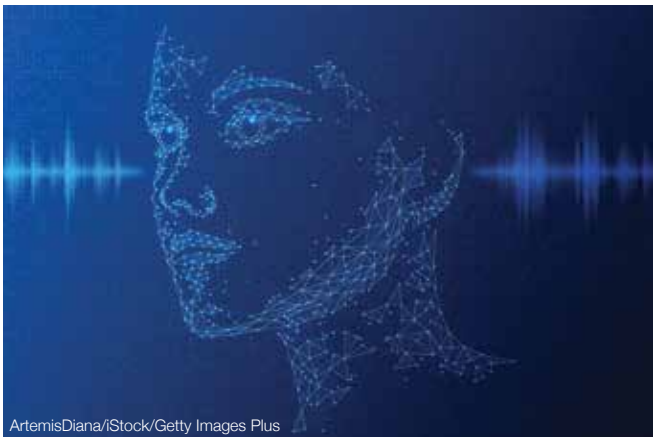
Many cities have ramped up enforcement to combat the illegal activity, and one state is taking special measures to bring to an end this growing public nuisance. The increase of street takeovers in cities across Texas led Governor Greg Abbott in February to create a statewide task force to counter them.

Texas DPS Director Steven McCraw further described the problem in the February 23 press release announcing the task force's creation: "These street takeovers put the lives of Texans and Texas law enforcement officers at risk. We are seeing fireworks fired at officers in crowds, lasers pointed at aircraft, drivers driving upwards of 130 miles per hour with no lights on in the dark of night — all of it is reckless, and it needs to be stopped."

Abbott insisted that the task force would "send a clear message that these reckless, coordinated criminal events will not be tolerated in Texas."

Pentagon Developing Deepfakes to Deceive the Public

U.S. Special Operations Command (SOCOM) is "gearing up to conduct internet propaganda and deception campaigns online using deepfake videos," according to contracts with the federal government reviewed by The Intercept on March 6.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In behavior many would attribute to rogue regimes targeting the United States, the activities that SOCOM is carrying on overseas include "hacking internet-connected devices to eavesdrop in order to assess foreign populations' susceptibility to propaganda," the Intercept article reports.

The information revealed in the report is taken from a procurement document published by the Department of Defense on February 15, the "Broad Agency Announcement … for Technology Development and Advanced Technology Development," a sort of wish list of technological tools the Pentagon is looking to secretly deploy throughout the world.

The document spells out that SOCOM is seeking "a next generation capability to collect disparate data through public and open source information streams such as social media, local media, etc.[,] to enable MISO [Military Information Support Operations] to craft and direct influence operations."

No less unnerving is that SOCOM plans to "Generate next generation capability to [take over] Internet of Things (IoT) devices [to] collect data and information from local populaces to enable breakdown of what messaging might be popular and accepted through sifting of data once received. This would enable MISO to craft and promote messages that may be more readily received by [the] local populace."

Those are the goals of our own federal government. The leaders of our armed forces are seeking partners who can provide the Pentagon with the tools to carry out missions of mass deception using deepfakes and collect data from internet-connected devices used in homes, using the conversations recorded to craft messages — false messages — that the people being secretly monitored will easily accept as accurate.

Of course, there is absolutely no constitutional authority for the federal government to carry out such missions of mass deception, particularly when the United States is not at war.

Texas Bill Could Lead to State's Independence

Texas State Representative Bryan Slaton (R) filed the Texas Independence Referendum Act (H.B. 3569), or TEXIT, on March 6. If passed, it would allow voters in the 2024 election to decide "whether or not the State should investigate the possibility of Texas independence, and present potential plans to the Legislature."

Simply put, if the act passes in the statehouse and gains Governor Greg Abbott's signature, Texas voters will vote on the possibility of Texas seceding from the United States. Once passed, the act would require the establishment of a joint interim "Texas Independence Committee" to study and recommend to the Legislature by December 31, 2024 the "most effective and expeditious method by which Texas may be returned to its status as an independent nation."

33ft/iStock/Getty Images Plus

"The Texas Constitution is clear that all political power resides in the people. After decades of continuous abuse of our rights and liberties by the federal government, it is time to let the people of Texas make their voices heard," Slaton said in his press release. "Texas was born out of a desire for liberty and self-governance, and that desire continues to burn in the hearts of all Texans."

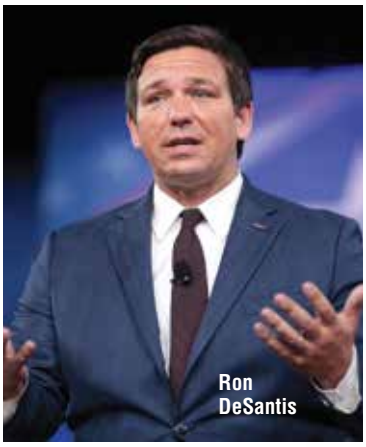
The bill has the full support of the Texas Nationalist Movement (TNM), an organization of over 440,000 members fighting for the state's independence. The group explains that "TEXIT is not Texas independence. Rather, TEXIT is the process that gets Texas to independence. TEXIT means that Texans determine our own laws and not 2.5 million unelected bureaucrats in Washington. It means that we get a government that begins and ends at the borders of Texas…. Most importantly, it means that for the first time in our lives we control our own destiny."

Momentum for TEXIT appears to be strong among Texas voters. According to the *Washington Examiner* on March 6, TNM President Daniel Miller said that "Sixty-six percent of likely voters in Texas support this referendum coming up for a vote."

Could this be the rebirth of the Lone Star Republic? ■

During His Visit to California, Florida Governor Pointed to the State's Self-inflicted Woes

"Your state is hemorrhaging population. The American people as a whole in some ways have voted about your experiment, and many voted with their feet. If you look over the last four years, we've witnessed a great American exodus from states governed by leftist politicians imposing leftist ideology and delivering poor results."
In his speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Florida Governor **Ron DeSantis** *also acknowledged California Governor Gavin Newsom's personal effort to discount Florida's growing popularity by telling Californians that "your governor is very concerned about what we are doing in Florida, so I figured I had to come by" and respond.*


Ron DeSantis
AP Images

Student-loan Defaulter: If Corporations Get Bailed Out, Others Should Too

"We've sat here and watched as corporations get debt cancelled year after year. It happens every time we have any sort of economic turndown. I really believe it's time for the people to be able to access that type of benefit as well."
Kristin McGuire, *the executive director of Young Invincibles, is one of many who have defaulted on their obligations to pay the government back for what they borrowed. Students who used federal loans to continue their education and have paid the government back may wonder if those who are now demanding cancellation of their loans believe that refund payments should be sent to those who did pay off their loans.*

Rupert Murdoch
AP Images

Fox News Chairman Criticizes His Network's On-air Personalities for Supporting Election-fraud Claims

"They endorsed [those false claims]. I would have liked us to be stronger in denouncing [them] in hindsight. We thought everything was on the up-and-up."
In a deposition arranged by Dominion Voting Systems that sought his opinion about the reporting of Fox personalities Sean Hannity, Jeanine Pirro, Lou Dobbs, and Maria Bartiromo, Fox Chairman **Rupert Murdoch** *insisted that his network itself had never endorsed the election-fraud claims.*

Many Still Missing After Earthquake in Turkey May Never Be Found

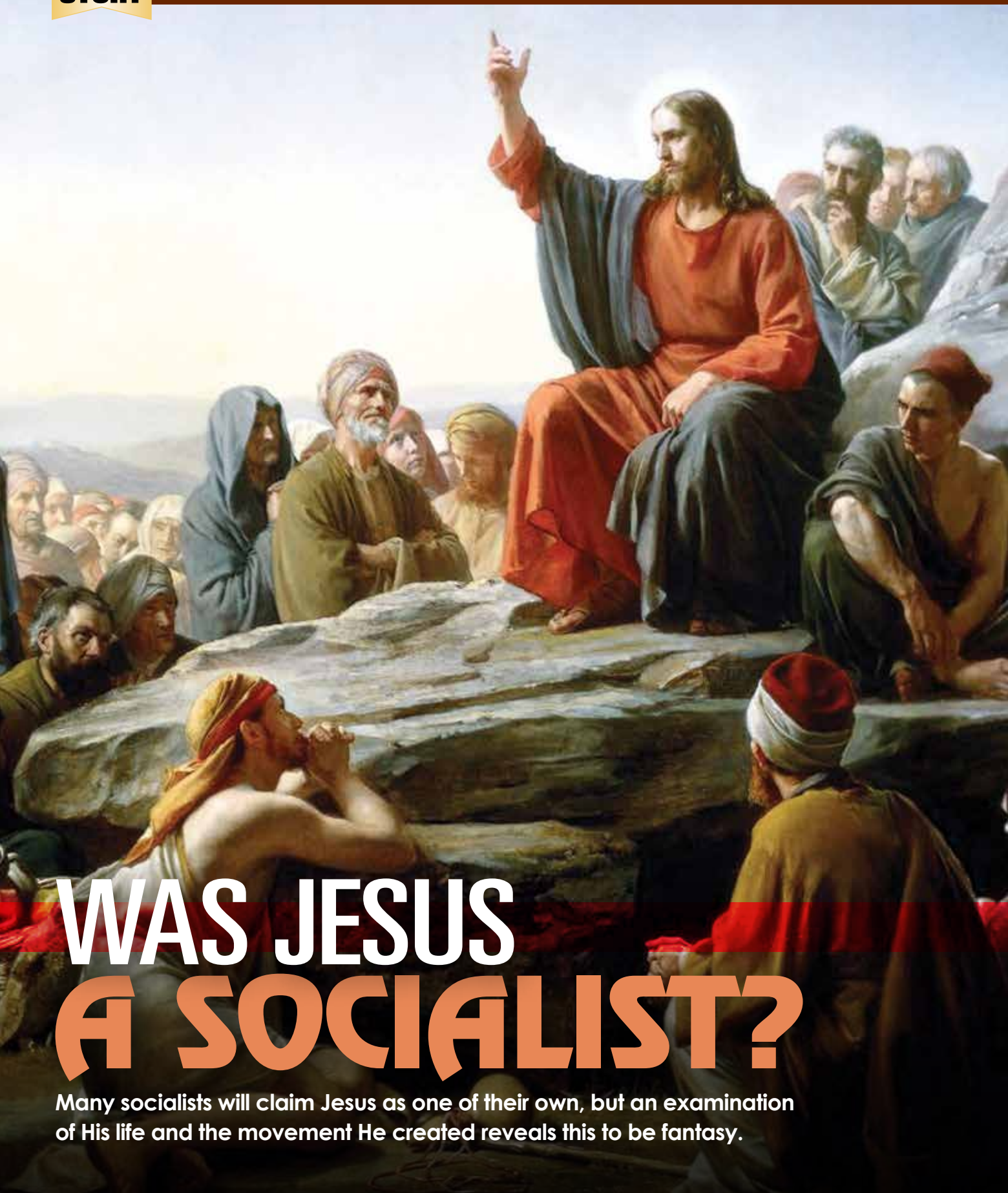
"I can't find my father anywhere in the world — not under the rubble, not in the hospitals, not anywhere."
The earthquake in Turkey killed 47,000 people, and there are still 1,000 people missing five weeks after the tragedy. A similar problem exists in nearby portions of Syria, where 6,000 people were killed when the quake and its aftershocks rocked that area. Lawyer **Mervat Nasri**, *who is from Syria, is one of many who have no knowledge of what happened to their relatives and others whose remains have not been found.*

Biden's Budget Targeted by GOP Lawmakers Who Want Reductions in Spending

"It's a scam. It's a reckless proposal. I think what it does is to reinforce the fact that we need to demand spending cuts because [Biden] is not going to make them."
An ultimatum from the House Freedom Caucus pointed to the existing $31.4 trillion debt ceiling and the Biden plan to increase the red ink. The caucus has demanded cuts in spending, not more indebtedness. Representative **Earl Carter** *(R-Ga.), a member of the caucus, let it be known that Biden's proposal will be challenged.* ■

— Compiled by John F. McManus

Earl Carter
AP Images



WAS JESUS A SOCIALIST?

Many socialists will claim Jesus as one of their own, but an examination of His life and the movement He created reveals this to be fantasy.

by Selwyn Duke

Ever since Scottish reformer Robert Owen's early 19th-century utopian "socialist" community dissolved after only a few years, people have been trying to make the "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" model work. They're still trying and, of course, we're told that past failures occurred only because "true socialism" was never implemented. Interestingly, this explanation may amount to the "no true Scotsman" fallacy (an "appeal to purity" to dismiss evidence against an ideal). Whether or not Owen was a true socialist or a true Scotsman, however, we also hear the recurring assurance that we simply need to have the "right people" effecting socialism. But then, to sell the idea, you need in addition the right people marketing it. The solution?

Recruit Jesus.

Yes, even many secularists believe the Christ can be the Savior — of socialism. Thus do we hear the claim "Jesus was a socialist!" with the implication, "Do you wanna be a heathen, you capitalist pig!"

Of course, this isn't the first time a movement has recruited He who, were He in your corner, could be the ultimate salesman. The Nazi regime in Germany more or less claimed Jesus as a National Socialist, with Hitler and his henchmen espousing "Positive Christianity," which held that Christ was a Nordic character persecuted by a Jewish establishment. Yet while Nazism is fully discredited, socialism soldiers on despite leaving in its wake a trail of dead economies and bodies, the latter in the tens of millions. In fact, one could be tempted to say that as with Jesus, but speaking metaphorically, socialism has risen from the grave — though, in reality, it was never fully buried. As the author of the book *Was Jesus a Socialist?*, Lawrence W. Reed, wrote in 2020:

> Time has passed, and the rising generation has no memory of the Cold War or of the repeated failures of socialism. To many young Americans, socialism isn't a dirty word; it's an ideal.
>
> In May 2016, a Gallup poll revealed that 55 percent of eighteen-to-twenty-nine-year-olds had a positive image of socialism. In that year's presidential primaries, a self-described "democratic socialist," Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, earned more votes from voters under the age of thirty than the eventual Democratic and Republican nominees combined....
>
> In 2018, the Democratic Socialists of America, which emerged back in 1982, saw members win election to Congress for the first time. One of the two ... elected that year was Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.
>
> In early 2019, a Harris poll showed that half of Americans aged eighteen to thirty-nine said they would "prefer living in a socialist country." A 2019 report by the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation revealed that more than 70 percent of millennials said they were likely to vote for a socialist for president.

When reality rained on Utopia: Despite the best of intentions, Scottish reformer Robert Owen couldn't make his secular collectivist commune (conception of which is above) in Indiana work, as incentive was lacking and productivity waned. Thus would his town, instituted in 1825 and named New Harmony, come to typify a now-old story — on the macro and micro scales, "socialism" fails.

Perhaps this isn't surprising. It may sound silly at first blush, but branding is effective, and what's in a name? People generally love socializing and the sociable, and they may even belong to social clubs. And *social*ism just sounds so — so innocuous, so helpful, so friendly. What's not to like?

This linguistics-born image matters because it's typically all young people have: Most of them can't actually define socialism. Their elders often don't help, either. For example, in a 2016 HuffPost piece boldly titled "Jesus Was a Socialist," Occidental College professor of politics Peter Dreier writes that today's "democratic socialists believe in private enterprise but think it should be subject to rules that guarantee businesses act responsibly." Huh?

It's true that Dreier is modifying "socialism" with "democratic," which implies it's something other than just "socialism." But two points: First, government ownership of the means of production has long been a socialist tenet. Second, the professor's title is not "Jesus Was a *Democratic* Socialist." But if that actually is his point and an emerging far-left consensus today, well, then, that's progress — it's an admission that Jesus was *not* "a socialist" (per se).

Of course, it's not surprising that a group (leftists) that can't explain what a woman is would have trouble defining

Selwyn Duke has written for The New American *for more than a decade. He has also written for* The Hill, *Observer*, The American Conservative, *WorldNetDaily, American Thinker, and many other print and online publications.*

what socialism is. (If you identify as a socialist, you are one?) Yet we can't possibly decide if Jesus was a socialist without first defining what we're actually talking about. And if Dreier's definition is valid, well, then, we don't have to argue about whether we should be socialist; we already are. For we have private enterprise, and we have rules (i.e., regulations) forcing businesses to act in ways deemed responsible. Dreier's set may say there aren't enough such rules, but then what we have is simply that old argument about the size and scope of government.

What's more, allowing for private enterprise means involving the profit motive and having degrees of business success varying with people's different ability levels, and this means there won't be "economic equality" but income-determined classes; this will also mean having losers and winners and big winners, the rich. Dreier's side may say they believe in wealth redistribution to mitigate this, more so than already exists. But then what we have is simply that old argument about types and levels of taxation.

In reality, what "democratic socialists" appear to want is the merger of corporate and government power — which is known as corporatism. It's also something else: fascism. As a founding father of that ideology, Benito Mussolini, put it, "Fascism should rightly be called corporatism, as it is the merger of corporate and government power." I bet good ol' Professor Dreier never thought of himself as an economic fascist.

A better definition of "socialism" was posited by the aforementioned Lawrence Reed in a 2019 Biola University interview. He said that "socialism should be defined as a system in which you have central planning of the economy by the government or government ownership of the means of production or the forcible redistribution of income by the government." The bottom line is that with all the definitions of socialism that abound, were it a mental disorder(?!), psychologists would long ago have, as is their wont, established a "socialism spectrum." Were it a religion, we'd perhaps be speaking of orthodox, conservative, and reform socialism.

This said, it would seem that an honest analysis would have to hold that socialism must involve government ownership of the means of production and the principle echoed by its most famous standard bearer, Karl Marx: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

One man who may agree, at least during an honest moment, is Senator Raphael Warnock (D-Ga.). While preaching back in the days when he practiced politics only from the pulpit, in 2016, he declared to his Ebenezer Baptist Church flock that "evangelicals who stand on the Bible" but dismiss socialism should "go back and read the Bible." "The early church was a socialist church," he proclaimed, saying that the early Christians "took all of their things and they had all things in common.... It's a basic principle." Take that, Adam Smith!

As any pious believer knows, Warnock was drawing from Acts 4:32-35, which reads, "The community of believers was of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they had everything in common. With great power the apostles bore witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great favor was accorded them all. There was no needy person among them, for those who owned property or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds of the sale, and put them at the feet of the apostles, and they were distributed to each according to need." This does prove one thing, too: Warnock, assuming he's being sincere and not demonically clever, has but a comic-book understanding of both Christianity and socialism.

First, let's note that the early-church model has been replicated continually throughout history. From the advent of monasteries to this day, monks have lived communally in small groups. In the 19th-century United States, there were many small religious "utopian" communes such as the Shakers, Brook Farm, the Oneida colony, and the Latter-Day Saints. Then there's that smallest, most communal of all communes: the family.

Following Warnock's logic, the family *could be called* socialist: In a normal family with a proper hierarchy, the parents are an autocratic (though not despotic) government; they make the decisions, and the children have no vote. The parents also could be likened to a "nanny state," providing everything for the kids, while the latter toil in only "state"-approved ways (e.g., chores, tasks on a farm). So you could label this socialism — except it's

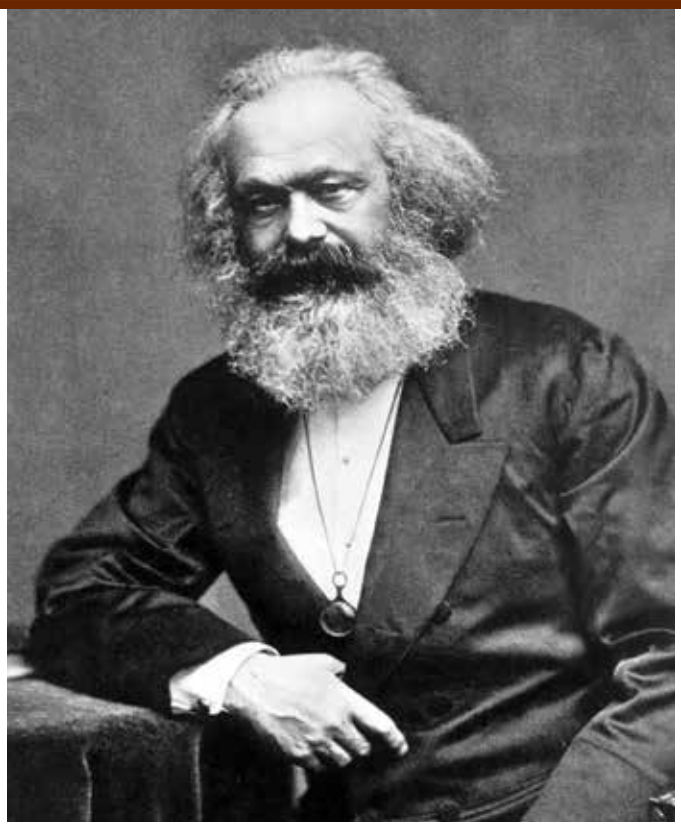
AP Images

The senior seducer: Wizened but not wise, Senator Bernie Sanders represents so-called Democratic Socialism, a rebranding of an old mistake. In fact, in a new book he released he calls for "a political revolution in which working people come together," which is just a rephrasing of Marx's "Workers of the world, unite!"

not. And you could, Warnock-style, imply that it's scalable and applicable to the wider society — except it isn't.

The first fundamental difference is that communes and the family are *voluntary* arrangements. The exception to this would be a family's children, yet this only buttresses the point; just think how disgruntled, restive, and even rebellious kids can become, sometimes bristling at their government's dictates. This is despite the fact that the family state and its little subjects typically enjoy an advantage big government and its subjects don't: strong emotional bonds and love helping to ensure they do right by each other.

Yet socialism, even if it's "democratic" and a majority of the citizenry votes for it, is compulsory. It's visited by government even on those who don't support it, and some of its policy impositions — many of which will have been unforeseen by even (or especially) most of those who did vote for it — will create millions of disgruntled, restive, and even rebellious "children."



Lamentable legacy: Karl Marx is long gone but, lamentably, not forgotten. If a 2019 report is to be believed, Bernie Sanders' call to revolution may not go unheeded, as polling reveals that more than 70 percent of millennials say they're likely to support a socialist for president.

Sadly Salable, but Not Scalable

This pressing of people into service against their will is just one reason why the family/commune model isn't scalable.

But to be socialism it *must* be.

By definition, socialism is a prescription for running a whole civilization; it's one-size-fits-all. Socialism would not be socialism had Marx and his fellow travelers merely said they encourage people to act communally, and they certainly knew communes existed. This wasn't enough for them. They demanded that their involuntary program be foisted on an entire society, via violent revolution if necessary. It was "Workers of the world, unite!"

Yet there's something perhaps even more profound distinguishing the early church and Christian communes from socialism. It's well known that religion is to socialism what a mongoose is to a cobra. And the spirit of Marx's saying that religion "is the opium of the people" has been embraced by his co-ideologists in different times and places. Just consider, for example, what Grove City College political science professor Paul Kengor related in *Crisis Magazine* in 2021. "'There is nothing more abominable than religion,' declared Vladimir Lenin," wrote Kengor. "He said that 'all worship of a divinity is a necrophilia.' He echoed Marx: '…Religion is a sort of spiritual booze.' Lenin underscored socialism's incompatibility with religion: 'Everyone must be absolutely free to … be an atheist, which every socialist is, as a rule.'"

Then there was William Z. Foster, who "was the first major public face, as well as chairman, of what became known as (and remains) the Communist Party USA, prior to which he had been with the Socialist Party of America," informs Kengor. After first repeating Marx's opium line during 1930 congressional testimony, he was then asked if atheism was a prerequisite for Communist Party membership. His reply was, in part, that "a worker who will join the Communist Party, who understands the elementary principles of the Communist Party, must necessarily be in the process of liquidating his religious beliefs and, if he still has any lingerings when he joins the party, he will soon get rid of them."

Such sentiments from socialists/communists are legion. The bottom line, however, is that the faith they reject was and is absolutely integral to religious communal life. And perhaps the best way to illustrate the point is by returning to what I opened the essay with: Robert Owen's utopian secular commune.

Owen's endeavor might've been inspired by the aforementioned religious communes, some of which were quite successful and endured for more than 100 years. Yet Owen's community, established in 1925 in New Harmony, Indiana, was already a conspicuous failure by 1927. What was the difference?

Neither the Owenites nor the religious communes had the profit motive, but the latter did have something else ensuring productivity: the God motive. It's not just that "aside from practical purposes, doing manual labor is also considered a way of getting closer to God," as the Lay Cistercians of South Florida's website puts it. It's that even more significantly (however you reckon the theology in question), believing you've been divinely enjoined to pursue your labors — or even, perhaps, that you're earning your way into Heaven — is a pretty darn strong incentive.

The Owenites, however, lacking both the dollar and deity motives, had no incentive at all. Consequently, New Harmony's "residents lacked the motivation to work," wrote the McIver Institute in 2020. "The community couldn't produce enough food to be self-sufficient, primarily because when its hardest-working members realized that they would earn the same benefits as the laziest, they stopped work-

ing." Owen's experiment, already listing in 1827, collapsed completely in 1829.

Of course, if even Owen's small, 800-strong colony couldn't make a secular collectivist model work, how could it be feasible on a national scale? But the bottom line is that socialism and the early church are profoundly, starkly different.

All this said, it doesn't directly address Jesus himself, but His followers. It is possible, too, of course, that they didn't truly reflect His will. So, what of the Christ?

First, and obviously, any ideology explicitly advocating religion's elimination cannot epitomize a man who, even from the secular perspective, was epitomized by religion. In fact, it takes Big Lie-level chutzpah for socialists to call Jesus one of their own after spending 150 years impugning what He represented, for an aggressively irreligious movement to claim a religious figure as standard bearer for benefit. Why, since they fancy faith an "abominable" illusion, they'd have to consider Jesus either a charlatan or a religious nut.

Of course, Professor Dreier and his democratic socialists would likely now *say* they accept people's practice of religion, but it should be a "private" matter. (One could wonder, though, if perhaps ideology, socialism included, should be a private matter.) They would surely *say* that faith is fine as long as there's a "separation of church and state," a principle that, tellingly, isn't in our Constitution but the 1936 *Soviet* constitution. A bit as with the early 20th-century Mensheviks, devout socialists would probably view the democratic socialists as heretical and, well, Joseph Stalin would have found, let's say, very special accommodations for them.

This said, it is perhaps natural that socialists should overlook Jesus' "religious" nature and consider Him as they now do: in only an economic dimension. For, as the late Pope Benedict XVI noted approximately 15 years ago, one of Marx's great errors was viewing man as solely an economic being. But what of this? Did Christ say anything about economics that smacks of the red faith of the faithless?

Dreier makes this case. Insofar as providing evidence, though, he apparently could find only two Jesus quotations that he *believes* support his assertion. The first: "'No one can serve two masters,' the Lord says in Matthew 6:24," Dreier relates. "Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." Most true — just as no one can serve God and government or God and ideology.

Of course, Dreier's supposition is a straw-man argument: that supporting a healthy market economy is synonymous with "serving money." Why, going tit for tat, one could just as easily dismiss democratic socialists by assuming they serve government (without even attempting to serve God). This is relevant because Jesus' message was that you cannot serve *any* two masters; we're not to put anything before God. Note here, too, that the context of Jesus' statement was a sermon in which He instructed His followers not to worry about their bodies, food, drink, or clothes; in fact, Christ's very next line was, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life." Should this be taken as an injunction against providing healthcare? And since socialists fixate on food, drink, clothes, and healthcare, claiming they can deliver necessities better than market economies can, should Jesus' words here be considered anti-socialist?

Some might say so. Socialists use money as a medium of exchange just as their opponents do, so that's a wash. Moreover, in the 2008 piece "Don't listen to the liberals — Right-wingers really are nicer people, latest research shows," author Peter Schweizer cited studies demonstrating that leftists covet money more than do conservatives; why, the latter even donate more to charity, considerably more when adjusted for income. So who, again, serves money?

Of course, Dreier might claim his assumption is based on an interpretation of the term "capitalism." After all, since its root, "capital," has as a synonym "money," it could be conceptualized as "moneyism." But this only proves that conservatives ever conserve leftists' mistakes (and their machinations). That is, *vis à vis* political/economic systems, "capitalism" was first used *by* socialists — pejoratively.

Dreier's second and last example is what Jesus said in Luke 12:15: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Again, most true. Yet Jesus also warned against lust, such as in Matthew 5:28 and 1 John 2:16, the former of which reads, "But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Does this imply, however, that Christ was advocating a top-down, command-and-con-

AP Images

You can't have it both ways: Communist Party USA chairman William Z. Foster explained well why Christ was socialism's antithesis: Echoing Lenin's statement that "every socialist is, as a rule," an atheist, Foster said in 1930 that any member of his party "must necessarily be in the process of liquidating his religious beliefs."

trol, government-orchestrated system for monitoring, micromanaging, and redistributing the pleasures of the flesh?

Just as significantly, however, Dreier again fails to provide context, which, in this case, is deliciously ironic. For Jesus made His Luke 12:15 statement while rebuking a fellow who came to Him and said, "Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me." In other words, Christ issued His warning to a man asking for equal treatment and some wealth redistribution! Moreover, traditional Luke 12:15 interpretations present not the word "greed," but *covetousness*. Quite telling. It could bring to mind how Winston Churchill called socialism "the gospel of envy."

So Dreier's argument for Jesus being a socialist is weak to the point of approaching nonexistence. In his article of 1,616 words, only the aforementioned 59 are from Jesus' mouth. Most of the remaining 1,557 are devoted to citing Christians who embraced socialism, seemed sympathetic to it, or claimed Jesus was — people such as Pope Francis, Francis Bellamy, Eugene Debs, Jane Addams, Reverend Walter Rauschenbusch, Helen Keller, and Norman Thomas. It's an argument, from a college professor, that's in the nature of, "I heard it on the internet." Yet one of the individuals cited particularly caught my eye.

Mentioning Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903) and his 1891 encyclical *Rerum Novarum* ("On the Condition of Labor"), Dreier writes that the pontiff "focused attention on the dehumanizing conditions in which many workers labored. He affirmed workers' rights to just wages, rest, and fair treatment, to form unions, and to strike if necessary. He called on governments to promote a more equal distribution of resources and said, in particular, that the poor 'have a claim to special consideration.'" This attitude, in an age of child labor, is not surprising. Nonetheless, Dreier admits that the pope "did not espouse socialism." Yes, well, that's one way to put it.

Another is that Pope Leo devoted a few thousand words (literally) in *Rerum Novarum* to scoring socialism and dissecting its manifold flaws. Here is just one representative paragraph:

> And in addition to injustice, it is only too evident what an upset and disturbance there would be in all classes, and to how intolerable and hateful a slavery citizens would be subjected. The door would be thrown open to envy, to mutual invective, and to discord; the sources of wealth themselves would run dry, for no one would have any interest in exerting his talents or his industry; and that ideal equality about which they entertain pleasant dreams would be in reality the levelling down of all to a like condition of misery and degradation. Hence, it is clear that the main tenet of socialism, community of goods, must be utterly rejected, since it only injures those whom it would seem meant to benefit, is directly contrary to the natural rights of mankind, and would introduce confusion and disorder into the commonweal. The first and most fundamental principle, therefore, if one would undertake to alleviate the condition of the masses, must be the inviolability of private property.

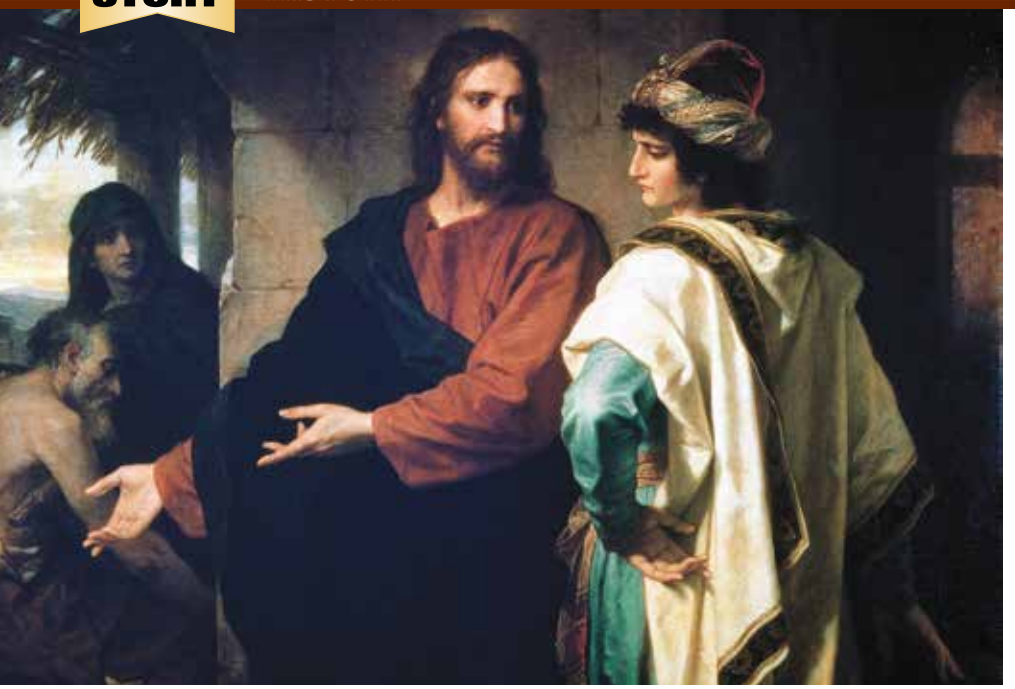
AP Images

Christian socialist? Some socialists support their claim that Jesus is one of them by pointing to Christians, such as Pope Francis, who've criticized "capitalism." What they don't say is that socialism has been officially rejected by the Catholic Church.

Consider, too, that Leo's message was summed up by one of his successors, Pope Pius XI (1857-1939), 40 years later in the encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*. "Religious socialism, Christian socialism, are contradictory terms," Pius unabashedly declared — "no one can be at the same time a good Catholic and a true socialist."

Returning to Jesus himself, there are two biblical stories involving the wealthy whose contrast speaks volumes. Matthew 19:16-30 tells of a rich young man who asked Jesus what he must to do to enjoy eternal life. It was then established that the fellow already obeyed God's commands, at which point he asked the Lord what else was necessary. Jesus replied, "If you want to be perfect, then go and sell all that you own. Give the money to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and follow me!" The man walked away, crestfallen. Yet Jesus' treatment of Zacchaeus the tax collector in Luke 19:1-10 was very different. Zacchaeus was not only rich, but by his own admission had violated God's commands: He'd defrauded people. Despite this, when Zacchaeus vowed to give half his possessions to the poor and compensate anyone he'd cheated fourfold, Jesus approvingly announced that today, "salvation has come to this house."

So Jesus was asking the young man to become penniless while allowing Zacchaeus to retain half his fortune. Perhaps the Lord, knowing hearts and minds, realized the young fellow was too attached to



Don't label Him: At the end of the day, Jesus was, and is, not a socialist or a capitalist or any other "ist." He is the Alpha and the Omega, transcending temporal labels and constraints. He said in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world," and those using Him to build their own kingdom miss the point: He's not representative of a cause — He is the cause.

his wealth and needed to detach; maybe He was calling the man to be a priest; or both. Regardless, this is far from socialism-prescribed "equality" and apparently reflects the truth that in society, different people should have different roles — and different bank rolls.

Yet what of Jesus' parable in Luke 16:19-31, some may ask, which involves a rich man who went to Hell while poor Lazarus, whom he'd ignored on Earth, went to Heaven? The belief that Christ was condemning wealth here and that those possessing it are barred from paradise is an old one; in fact, wrote Dr. William Oddie at *Crisis Magazine* in 1984, it's so old that Augustine of Hippo had to refute it in 414 A.D. After pointing out that "the poor" in the Bible often actually references the "humble and pious ... who know their need of God," Oddie quotes the church father as having written that

> if the poor man's [Lazarus'] merit had been his poverty, not his goodness, he surely would not have been carried by angels into the bosom of Abraham who had been rich in this life. This is intended to show us that on the one hand it was not poverty itself that was divinely honored, nor, on the other, riches that were condemned, but that the godliness of the one and the ungodliness of the other had their own consequences, and, as the torment of fire was the lot of the ungodly rich man, so the bosom of the rich Abraham received the godly poor man. Although Abraham lived as a rich man, he held his riches … lightly.

Speaking of merit, what about socialism's prescription for having the "state" provide for the poor? How meritorious is it? Late journalist P.J. O'Rourke had some idea. "There is no virtue in compulsory government charity, and there is no virtue in advocating it," he once wrote. "A politician who portrays himself as 'caring' and 'sensitive' because he wants to expand the government's charitable programs is merely saying that he's willing to try to do good with other people's money. Well, who isn't? And a voter who takes pride in supporting such programs is telling us that he'll do good with his own money — if a gun is held to his head." So even if you believe government aid is sometimes necessary, supporting it is nothing to brag about.

To sum up, though, none of this should need be said. Even left-wing *Current Affairs* magazine, while criticizing the aforementioned Lawrence Reed, his book *Was Jesus a Socialist?*, and rightists' alleged exaltation of wealth accumulation, admitted in 2020 that "Jesus was not a socialist." The magazine also takes pains to emphasize that Christ "wasn't a libertarian," either. No — and we should never label Him such.

As philosopher C.S. Lewis pointed out in *The Screwtape Letters* (1942), a book written from the perspective of a demon schooling an underling on how to corrupt a man's soul, humanity must be convinced to attach worldly labels to Jesus. People can call him the "first communist" or the "first liberal" or the first this or that — anything at all, so long as they don't think of Him first and foremost as being God.

Even those not believing in Jesus' divinity can appreciate that His mission transcended the worldly. He wasn't interested in redeeming mankind by altering us from the outside in but from the inside out, changing minds and morals, not money matters; feelings, not finances; hearts and holiness, not regulations and restrictions. He wasn't interested in reforming the way we govern others, but the way we govern ourselves; and He wanted God to be our highest power, not government.

Returning again to Matthew 6, when Jesus counseled, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth…. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven," He was speaking of more than just monetary wealth. Where "your treasure is, there your heart will be also," Jesus elaborated. For our treasure can be anything, from pocketbook to power to politics to party to privilege and beyond. Just as some would kill for money, leaders have murdered millions in power's name. Greed is only one of many sins, and Christ's business is all of them.

As for you socialists, if you're so wedded to your ideology that you'll even claim Jesus would wear your banner, well, know this: When He was warning of misplaced treasures, he was talking to you. ■

YouTube

Different story: Video shows that QAnon Shaman Jacob Chansley, a Navy vet, was not the violent maniac prosecutors and the leftist media made him out to be. Prosecutors did not turn that video over to his defense attorney.

Carlson Upends J6 Narrative With Video. Reaction: Shut Him Up!

The media attacked Tucker Carlson for airing the January 6 video, hoping Americans would not see what the surveillance cameras caught.

by R. Cort Kirkwood

When Tucker Carlson broadcast never-before-seen footage of the pro-Trump "insurrection" at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, the top Democrat in the U.S. Senate, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, did something that appears to be unprecedented and unappreciated for its frightening implications. He called for Carlson to be censored.

"Rupert Murdoch has a special obligation to stop Tucker Carlson from going on tonight [and] from letting him go on again and again and again [because] our democracy depends on it," Schumer said with the customary leftist *argumentum ad passiones*. Weeks later, the "democracy" still stands, in case anyone hadn't noticed. The courts are working. Traitor Joe Biden is babbling incoherently as he pretends to run the country. And Schumer is robbing the taxpayers. Nothing has changed.

Yet however disturbing it is that a top politician wanted a commentator silenced because "democracy" cannot withstand the commentary, it's hardly surprising that the call came from Schumer. Schumer was the one who couldn't stand his commentary, and neither could his party, which, increasingly controlled by nearly open communists, is insidiously creeping toward totalitarianism.

Schumer's hysterics aside, we can thank Murdoch — himself a leftist globalist sympathetic to Schumer's anti-Christian, anti-American cause — for ignoring the career politician, a lawyer who has never practiced law or held a real job at least since he graduated from law school.

Americans had already seen footage that showed that what occurred on January 6, 2021 — or J6 as it is called — was not an insurrection. But Carlson's video, obtained from GOP House Speaker Kevin McCarthy of California, showed that one of the key J6 defendants, "QAnon Shaman" Jacob Chansley, was not the violent maniac he was portrayed to be. It also shows deceased Capitol Hill Police Officer Brian Sicknick inside the U.S. Capitol *after* mostly peaceful protesters "killed" him in a pro-Trump "rampage." Two strokes killed Sicknick, who died the day after the mostly peaceful protest.

Carlson's broadcast is more proof that the J6 "insurrection" narrative is almost entirely false. And two snippets of surveillance video that he broadcast suggest that the narrative was a bigger lie than we thought.

Yellowstone Wolf

The most enduring images from that day don't show protesters breaking into the U.S. Capitol or even waving flags. And, compelling as they are, the most enduring images don't show protesters — some of whom were Antifa goons hoping to incite violence — grappling with police.

Instead, they show Chansley, tattooed and bare-chested, face painted red, white, and blue and carrying the flag, in his now famous if ostentatious and even preposterous regalia: a double-tailed coon hat adorned with horns. Some thought he resembled a Viking, but he might well have been the medicine man for Sioux or Cheyenne Indians.

Though depicted as an unhinged, dangerous "insurrectionist" with a "spear-tipped" flag, the Navy veteran was never violent, and indeed only pleaded guilty to obstructing an official proceeding. Surely one would have expected more serious charges. But alas, prosecutors filed none.

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During sentencing, Federal Judge Royce Lamberth, a Reagan appointee, called a contrite Chansley "the image of the riot," and the "very image of this whole event." He was, again, the enduring image, the one everyone remembers.

"The hardest part about this is to know that I'm to blame," Chansley told Lamberth:

> I was in solitary confinement because of me. Because of my decision. I broke the law.… I should do what Gandhi would do and take responsibility. There's no ifs, ands or buts about it, that's what men of honor do.

Yet if Chansley, not those who broke windows and fought with cops at the Capitol, was the "very image of the whole event," he wasn't a very good one. He attacked no one, carried no real weapons, and encouraged no violence. Indeed, Capitol Hill cops, the video showed, permitted him to walk unmolested about the Capitol. One cop tested a door, found it locked, and escorted him through another.

"Thank you, Heavenly Father, for taking the inspiration needed to these police officers to allow us into this building," Chansley prayed in front of the dais of the U.S. Senate, where he left a note on Vice President Mike Pence's chair. "It's Only A Matter Of Time," he wrote. "Justice Is Coming!"

That certainly wasn't "violent." And neither was "Yellowstone Wolf's" plea after President Trump told protesters to go home.

"Donald Trump has asked everybody to go home!" Chansley said through the megaphone to people trying to enter the building. "We made our point, Donald Trump asked us to go home."

He continued:

> So what are we going to do? We're going to obey our president, we're going to do as he asks, and we're going to go home.
>
> Let's get out of here guys.

Those are hardly the words of a man leading an "insurrection" to "overthrow democracy."

But again, police permitted Chansley to roam free, as they did other protesters, who were orderly, stayed inside rope lines, and, as Carlson noted, took selfies on their smartphones as if they were tourists.

But Chansley's story gets even more disturbing. Prosecutors did not release that video, which might have been exculpatory, to the peaceful man's attorney.

Albert Watkins told Carlson that the federal government knew Chansley has mental-health problems, yet through three hearings, prosecutors and Lamberth ignored that fact, and prison officials placed Chansley, who was *nonviolent*, in solitary confinement.

Chansley was "falling into an abyss" mentally, Watkins said. But perhaps worse was that prosecutors, again, withheld the exculpatory evidence that showed Chansley was not violent and did not deserve solitary confinement or probably even incarceration before his court proceedings.

"And through each of those three hearings that government assistant U.S. attorney knew the most important aspect of that hearing was that Jake was not violent," Watkins told Carlson:

> The government knew. They knew that Jake had walked around with all of these police officers. They had that video footage I didn't get. It wasn't disclosed to me. It wasn't provided to me.

So Chansley didn't plead guilty to a violent crime, while video showed that the prosecutors and their leftist media information ministry gave an entirely false impression to the public.

Federal law and their law profession's ethical code require prosecutors to release exculpatory evidence.

Censorship: Leftist U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer, New York Democrat, wanted Tucker Carlson stopped from broadcasting the unseen video from the mostly peaceful protest at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021.

"Government disclosure of material exculpatory and impeachment evidence is part of the constitutional guarantee to a fair trial," the Justice Department's website says, and it "must be disclosed regardless of whether the defendant makes a request."

As well:

> A prosecutor must disclose information that is inconsistent with any element of any crime charged against the defendant or that establishes a recognized affirmative defense, regardless of whether the prosecutor believes such information will make the difference between conviction and acquittal of the defendant for a charged crime.…
>
> A prosecutor must disclose information that either casts a substantial doubt upon the accuracy of any evidence — including but not limited to witness testimony — the prosecutor intends to rely on to prove an element of any crime charged, or might have a significant bearing on the admissibility of prosecution evidence. This information must be disclosed regardless of whether it is likely to make the difference between conviction and acquittal of the defendant for a charged crime.

Given that a major implication of the case against Chansley is that he was "violent" — prosecutors considered his flagpole a weapon — it appears they erred in not releasing the video to Watkins.

Lamberth sentenced him to more than three years in prison. He will be released in July.

In a letter to senators and congressmen, Capitol Hill Police Chief Tom Manger claimed that Carlson manipulated the video to create a false impression, including the claim that officers "acted as tour guides."

That "outrageous and false" claim, he wrote, omits the salient point that officers were outnumbered, and "did their best to use de-escalation tactics" to talk rioters out of the building.

True, perhaps, but other video released some time ago shows officers opening the doors to the building to permit the protesters' entry. And as Carlson noted, the vast majority of those protesters who entered the building were not "rioters," but instead looked like orderly tourists.

It's one thing for elected officials to oppose McCarthy's decision to release the video, and Carlson and Fox News' decision to broadcast it. It's another for elected officials to demand that a network censor video because it presents a different picture from the one Approved Media has painted for two years.

AP Images

Peaceful protester: Capitol Hill cops did not stop QAnon Shaman Jacob Chansley from entering the U.S. Senate Chamber, where he left a note for Vice President Mike Pence and prayed for the cop who was with him.

Thanks to the prevailing narrative, one Never Trump Republican felt comfortable advocating Chansley's summary execution inside the Senate chamber. Grifter "consultant" Steve Schmidt said the lone Capitol Hill cop with Chansley should have murdered him: "Shoot him, shoot him":

> If he was dressed like bin Laden, would he have shot him?

For the record, as a principal of the leftist Lincoln Project, Schmidt protected boy molester John Weaver, who was caught grooming young men. If he favors shooting unarmed, peaceful protesters, one wonders what punishment Schmidt thinks is tough enough for boy molesters.

The upshot is, whatever Capitol Hill

cops did, the video showed that Chansley was not what he was depicted to be: a violent "insurrectionist" trying to "overthrow our democracy."

Sicknick Footage

Also falsely depicted for the last two years is the death of Capitol Hill cop Brian Sicknick, a Trump voter who died the day after the "insurrection."

Before Washington, D.C.'s coroner autopsied Sicknick, news reports falsely, repeatedly, and hysterically claimed that a rioter smashed Sicknick in the head with a fire extinguisher. He died of "blunt force trauma," we were told. The false claims originated in two reports from *The New York Times*: "Capitol Police Officer Dies From Injuries in Pro-Trump Rampage" and "He Dreamed of Being a Police Officer, Then Was Killed by a Pro-Trump Mob." The *Times* even described a "bloody gash in his head." The paper then changed its story and claimed that "a factor may have been an irritant such as mace or bear spray," citing a "law enforcement official."

The *Times* reporters should have known the claims were false. The same day that the *Times'* false fire-extinguisher story appeared, ProPublica, citing Sicknick's brother, reported that the officer was fine after he was hit with mace, but died of a stroke the next day. Although ProPublica falsely claimed that Sicknick "died Thursday of injuries sustained while trying to protect the Capitol from a mob of violent rioters," it correctly reported the cause of his death.

The details here are significant because House Democrat impeachment managers, in their final criminal complaint against President Trump on February 2, 2021, cited the *Times* in footnote 131.

"The insurrectionists killed a Capitol Police officer by striking him in the head with a fire extinguisher," the memorandum said. That was *almost a month after ProPublica debunked that baseless conspiracy theory*. House managers likely knew the fire-extinguisher claim was false.

That wasn't the only falsehood in the memorandum, which relied on leftist mainstream-media accounts that were subsequently corrected or proven false.

But the video Carlson showed is yet another reason House managers should have known the claim that Sicknick was hit with a fire extinguisher was untrue. It shows Sicknick in the Capitol *after* he was supposedly brained with a fire extinguisher or incapacitated with mace or bear spray.

Chief Manger replied to the video of Sicknick in the Capitol by falsely claiming that Sicknick's struggles with protesters caused his stroke. "Had Officer Sicknick not fought valiantly for hours on the day he was violently assaulted, Officer Sicknick would not have died the next day," Manger continued in his statement about the video.

Correlation is not causation, and

Calls for peace: When Donald Trump urged supporters to leave the U.S. Capitol, so did QAnon Shaman Jacob Chansley.

AP Images

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Just the facts: Contrary to what *The New York Times* and other media reported, Capitol Hill cop Brian Sicknick was not killed by a fire extinguisher in a fight with J6 protesters. Nor did he die of an allergic reaction to mace or bear spray, another false claim. Sicknick suffered two strokes from blood clots in his brain stem after the mostly peaceful protest, and died the next day.

healthy 42-year-old men don't die of strokes after a few hours or even a day of stress. But Manger's claim fortifies the false narrative that insurrectionists murdered Sicknick. That's where the autopsy comes in again. Washington, D.C.'s coroner found zero signs of external injury or an allergic reaction to mace or bear spray, and confirmed what Sicknick's brother told ProPublica. Sicknick died from two strokes caused by a blood clot at the base of his brain stem, i.e., "natural causes."

And obviously, had Sicknick either been crowned with a fire extinguisher hard enough to leave a "bloody gash," or suffered an allergic reaction to a chemical agent, he wouldn't have been in the Capitol afterward.

The key point is, *despite* the autopsy report, *almost two years later*, Manger and others still insist that Sicknick's clash with protesters killed him.

Reaction

Some might call Manger's claim disinformation, but, in any event, Carlson "cherry-picked from the calmer moments of our 41,000 hours of video," Manger told senators and congressman in his letter. "The commentary fails to provide context about the chaos and violence that happened before or during these less tense moments."

In a court filing related to another charged protester, prosecutors said the same thing. Chansley "faced off with members of the U.S. Capitol Police for more than thirty minutes in front of the Senate Chamber doors while elected officials, including the Vice President of the United States, were fleeing from the chamber," they averred:

> Chansley then entered the Senate Gallery, where he proceeded to scream obscenities while other rioters rifled through the desks of U.S. Senators on the floor below.

Naturally, Hate-Carlson Democrats and Republicans agreed with Manger that Carlson purposely misrepresented the video with "selective editing."

Speaker McCarthy was a "willing, capable and powerful accomplice" when "propagandist" Carlson "aired one of the most shameful hours we have ever seen in the history, in the entire history of cable television," Schumer fumed. Carlson and Murdoch are "destroying America."

"I'm beyond appalled," Democrat Representative Jim Hines of Connecticut said. "We know who Tucker Carlson is. Tucker Carlson is a parasite on the body politic," Hines continued.

"It was a mistake [for] Fox News to depict this in a way that is completely at variance with what our chief law enforcement official in the Capitol thinks," Senate GOP chief Mitch McConnell whined.

Senator Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) called Carlson's angle on the video "bullsh*t."

Said GOP Senator Ken Cramer of North Dakota, "to somehow put that in the same category as a permitted peaceful protest is just a lie."

Not so, said GOP Senator Ron Johnson of Wisconsin. The "truth is beginning to be revealed," he tweeted:

> Thank you @SpeakerMcCarthy, @TuckerCarlson & company for showing America the rest of the Jan. 6 story.
>
> When will judges begin applying justice equally?
>
> Doesn't look like "thousands of armed insurrectionists" to me.

"I've seen enough," Representative Mike Collins (R-Ga) tweeted. "Release all J6 political prisoners now."

The question is when the American people will have had enough. It's one thing for elected officials to oppose McCarthy's decision to release the video, and Carlson and Fox News's decision to broadcast it. It's another for elected officials, let alone the Democrat leader in the Senate who knows better, to demand that a network censor video because it presents a different picture from the one Approved Media has painted for two years.

And forget the fact that Americans are *entitled to see the video.*

If Schumer and his gang of Red disciples believe that threatens our "democracy," then perhaps our "democracy" is weaker than we think. ■

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY IS BACK AT CPAC

To the joy of constitutionalist attendees, The John Birch Society, parent organization of *The New American*, was welcomed back to CPAC after being banned from the event in 2012.

by Veronika Kyrylenko

The Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) continues to be the world's largest gathering of conservatives. Being one of the biggest political and press events of the year, CPAC draws national and international attention for a good reason: It defines and articulates the agenda of the next elections and sets the stage for Republican candidates and rising stars in the party.

The New American team attended this year's event, which was hosted immediately outside of the Capitol Beltway at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center on March 1-4.

Veronika Kyrylenko, Ph.D. is a senior editor and regular contributor for The New American.

Veronika Kyrylenko interviewed Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene.

The JBS booth was a popular spot.

The New American HIGHLIGHTS

Representative Ronny Jackson (R-Texas): Democrats avoided asking questions about Covid they didn't want answers to. Moreover, many of them will likely be found complicit in awful wrongdoings that harmed and continue to harm Americans, says Jackson. The newly established pandemic committee has very broad jurisdiction to investigate pandemic policies such as vaccinations and Covid origins.

Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.): The true Republican firebrand described her much-discussed idea of the "national divorce" between red and blue states as a way of reducing the power and size of the "overgrown monster" that the federal government has become. She also stressed the urgent need to return power back to states, where it belongs.

Kimberly Fletcher: The founder, CEO, and President of Moms for America believes in the power of American mothers to promote liberty and raise patriots to heal the Republic. She warns that the Biden administration and other leftists are intentionally distorting American history, values, and core ideas to dumb people down and make them embrace socialism and big government.

Dr. Peter McCullough: Multiple government agencies have an oversight role in biological threat development programs concerning coronaviruses, and they are connected with the development of novel mRNA "vaccines" and other therapeutics, notes McCullough. How many biolabs are out there, and what are they cooking? Nothing good, for sure, considering the ambitions of power-hungry, corrupt elites.

Mike Lindell: The founder of My Pilllow announced the Election Crime Bureau, which will be a major part of his ongoing efforts to combat election fraud. The organization vows to "investigate, prosecute, [and] restore trust." The stated objectives include eliminating voting machines, passing legislative reforms, and decentralizing voter rolls.

John Zadrozny: The Deputy Director of America First Legal maintained that the goal of the Biden administration is lawlessness in virtually all public policy domains. That includes the intentional deconstruction of the working immigration system put in place under President Donald Trump. Allowing millions of illegal aliens into the country is the result not of incompetence, but of concrete policy.

Dr. Robert Malone: One hundred niney-four nations are laying the legal groundwork for transferring their national sovereignty to the World Health Organization (WHO) to manage "public health emergencies," warns Malone. Lessons learned from three years of the Covid pandemic clearly show that nations who did not follow the WHO's advice and maintained their independence and sovereignty fared much better than those who marched in lockstep with the globalists.

The S.C. Freedom Caucus: South Carolina law allows only certain legislative caucuses to raise money and engage in the full range of protected free speech. That, apparently, excludes constitutional conservatives such as those of the Freedom Caucus, several of whom are John Birch Society members, including the two state legislators shown below.

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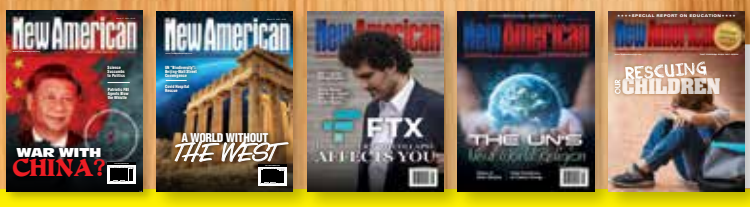
Many socialists will claim Jesus as one of their own, but an examination of His life reveals this to be fantasy. **(April 10, 2023) TNA230410**



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Insanity in the Classroom – Indoctrination?
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AP Images

VOUCHERS:
"School Choice" Trap

He who pays the piper calls the tune. When government educrats call the tune, they will ultimately advance their agenda, even if at first the tune sounds appealing to parents.

by Alex Newman

The money should follow the child, they said in the early 1990s. That way, they said, parents will have "school choice." Fund students, not systems, went the common refrain. This will introduce more "competition" in the quasi-monopoly education sector, they said. And it will give parents the ability to choose the education that best aligns with their priorities.

It all sounded so great that parties from across the political spectrum agreed to give it a try. Even conservative-leaning American think tanks such as Heritage were impressed, trumpeting the policy as a model. But then, in an instant, all genuine choice was abolished with one "education reform" law fewer than two decades after "school choice" was approved.

Suddenly, private schools taking public money were ordered to teach the radical government curriculum, including the gender-bending extremism. All had to participate in national testing, too, ensuring that all schools taught what the government wanted taught. With public money there must be "accountability," they said.

Perhaps even more troubling, supposedly Christian private schools were ordered to stop all Bible reading and prayer during school hours. In the same legislation, homeschooling was banned. Homeschoolers were forced to flee the nation, with armed police grabbing some children, such as Domenic Johansson, as families desperately tried to escape "school choice" to freer nations.

In short, all genuine and meaningful "choice" was abolished in one fell swoop — all under the seductive guise of "choice." Somewhat ironically, perhaps, the alleged effort to offer alternatives to government schools ended up turning all schools into government schools.

Thankfully, this all happened in Sweden, not America. It began in 1992 with the passage of universal "school choice," and ended two decades later with a comprehensive education reform law that, while preserving the tax funding for private schools, basically nationalized the entire system and ended all meaningful choice to ensure "accountability" and to protect what the United Nations and the Swedish government describe as the "human right" to a government-approved "education."

Alex Newman is a senior editor of The New American, *author of* Deep State: The Invisible Government Behind the Scenes, *and co-author (with the late Sam Blumenfeld) of* Crimes of the Educators.

A similar tragedy occurred in Australia. Attorney Chris Klicka, who has successfully represented thousands of families in his role as senior counsel for the Home School Legal Defense Association, explained in a 2001 piece for *Practical Homeschooling Magazine* that over 10 years, private and Christian schools took more and more tax funding. "The regulations gradually increased until the difference between public schools and private schools is non-existent," he said.

The same thing happened in South Africa, when the "National Education Act" officially transformed all publicly funded private schools into government schools, Klicka warned. And this writer has documented how public funding of private schools — Catholic and Protestant — across Canada has resulted in all sorts of abuses, including mandatory LGBT indoctrination of all children.

This same nightmare scenario can and will happen in America if conservatives and Republicans are not careful. In fact, in some key ways, it already is happening. In New York, pointing to government funding for Jewish "yeshiva" schools, authorities are trying to force the traditional religious schools to offer education that is "substantially equivalent" to that provided in government schools.

Meanwhile, charter schools and various tax-funded options are displacing genuinely independent private and home education. Increasingly, once-private educational institutions are becoming more and more intertwined with — and dependent on — government funding. This will inevitably lead to disaster, experts and even numerous former top education officials have warned.

"You have to be accountable with public tax dollars ... when it comes to taking federal tax dollars and giving those to parents and then having the absence of accountability as far as their children's education.... If you have accountability, then you lose the private and parochial nature of those schools," said former U.S. Education Secretary Richard Riley. "It's bad, we think, for private schools and parochial schools. It takes away from them the private and parochial strength, which is being totally free from any federal regulations. [Vouchers] threaten the very nature of private and parochial schools. It makes them less private and less parochial."

AP Images

Globalist education: UNESCO recently commissioned a report that calls on governments to use tax funding to gain control over private education.

Just think of the "free" government money as the cheese in the mousetrap. It works because the free cheese is appealing and the mouse does not understand that the decision to take the bait will have serious negative repercussions.

UNESCO Strategy

This strategy is actually laid out — not in those words, but nonetheless with remarkable clarity — in a recent Global Education Monitor report commissioned by the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). According to the report, governments should use tax subsidies for private schools to bring them under government control and impose regulations mandating "equity" and other goals.

This can be done by forcing entities taking public funds to use certain standards and enforce "centralization and control of the school choice and admissions procedures." Perhaps even more alarming, under the banner of "autonomy, evaluation, and accountability," the report proposes "integration of private subsidized schools into the monitoring and evaluation framework in place for the public sector."

The little-noticed report argues in favor of, among other policies, the supposed "need to establish appropriate governance and regulatory frameworks" over private schools funded by government. The alleged "need" to regulate private education providers is taken for granted. "Regulatory reforms must clearly define what public interest in education is and fix the rules under which private providers may participate," states the report, dubbed "Regulating Public-Private Partnerships, governing non-state schools: An equity perspective."

Even more alarming, the report starts with the premise that the government — not the parents — is primarily responsible for the education of children. Citing the UN's so-called Sustainable Development Goals, known as UN Agenda 2030 and described by UN bosses as the "master plan for humanity," the UN education report claims that "the State remains the duty bearer of education as a public good." Incredibly, parents are described variously in the report commissioned by UNESCO as "stakeholders" and even "vested interests" to be overcome by the government.

From there, the UN report proceeds to argue that any "collaboration" with the private sector on education "requires regulatory and accountability measures to ensure it is in line with the principle of education as a public good." Of course, education does not fit the traditional economic definition of a "public good" — think of a lighthouse, for instance — because it is neither non-rival (one person consuming it does not affect the ability of others to enjoy it) nor non-excludable (non-payers can be excluded with relative ease here).

Because there are already so many non-governmental alternatives to government schools, the report trumpets the "Public-Private Partnership" model, often known as PPP, to bring all options under state control. The PPPs still allow profit to flow to private interests, as long as those interests do what the government wants. According to the report, PPP schools are not "exempt from complying with centrally defined curricula, learning standards or student admissions criteria, among other public regulations," the report says, ominously.

AP Images

Strings attached: Former U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos and her billionaire family are among the leading proponents of tax funding for private education.

Critics have regularly derided the approach — widely supported among global elites at the World Economic Forum — as state socialism, corporatism, and fascism. Nazi Germany, which criminalized homeschooling, is a good example: Companies could remain in private hands, as long as they served the state. The UN report makes clear that this is the vision for education. Government testing requirements, it says, "play a strategic role in promoting that all publicly-funded schools, independently of their ownership, are correctly aligned with quality standards and also with the equity goals and objectives set by the government."

In other words, "private" schools will become government schools once they take government money — regardless of "their ownership."

The UNESCO document goes on to cite another group, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), that is taking a similar approach, calling for all "private" schools on the public dole to follow "clear guidelines and goals" imposed by government. And across Europe and beyond, more and more governments are opening up the spigots of public funding to private education under the guise of "choice" while using the public funding to actually eliminate real choice.

The UN has long been scheming to undermine genuine education choice. In 2015, the UN "Human Rights Council," a dictator-dominated body that is practically a caricature of a genuine human-rights outfit, passed a resolution demanding that governments regulate all education. Multiple international agreements over a period of decades have also made that clear. In fact, even the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights claims children have a "right" to an education that "shall further the activities of the United Nations." The globalization of education is real, and it is happening fast. (See "Education's Future: Globalization of Indoctrination" in *TNA's* February 4, 2019, Special Report on education for more details.)

Options, Players, and Programs

Across the United States, governments are already following the strategy described in the UNESCO report of using public funding to impose restrictions, regulations, and other requirements on formerly independent private schools. A 2016 investigation by the Government Accountability Office found this to be the case. "Voucher and ESA programs generally placed some requirements on participating private schools, according to GAO's review of program documents, survey responses, and interviews with program officials," the agency said, pointing to mandatory government testing requirements and other demands that come with taking government money. And those are just the camel's nose under the tent.

There are several different terms used to describe the overall vision: education vouchers, education-funding backpacks for all children, Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs), Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (ESAs), and more. Dozens of such programs are operating across America, and many more states are considering adopting the ideas. Ultimately, while there are variations in the different proposals, they all aim at the same ultimate objective: giving parents and families tax money to pursue their education.

For years, the so-called Blaine Amendments adopted by 37 states in their constitutions represented a formidable obstacle to such schemes. The amendments, originally aimed at blocking state funds for Catholic parochial schools, have long served as a bulwark against tax funding

for Christian schools of any kind. But with the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 ruling in the *Espinoza* case limiting the application somewhat in a case involving a Christian school in Montana, it is possible the dam may be about to break.

Proponents of vouchers point to a variety of studies — no doubt some of them at least are legitimate — that show students perform somewhat better academically when using vouchers. They also use slick arguments that, at first glance, sound very appealing. Corey DeAngelis, who was until recently listed as a UNESCO "expert" on the controversial UN agency's website, is one of the key advocates of the "fund students, not systems" approach, and the slogan is catching on, backed by big bucks.

This writer has no reason to doubt self-proclaimed "school choice evangelist" DeAngelis' sincerity. But his chief patron, former U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos, has made a number of public comments that are serious red flags at the very least. For instance, she publicly declared that because "every place a student learns is ultimately of benefit to the public," all education should be considered "public education." She also falsely claimed Common Core was "dead" even as her department continued to mandate it nationwide.

As head of the Department of Education, DeVos also signed a global declaration with other G20 governments calling for, among other absurdities, using education to indoctrinate children to believe in "sustainable development." The G20 Education Working Group agreement also called for embedding "socio-emotional skills across the curriculum" and the ongoing "internationalization of education."

The dangers of the approach advocated by DeVos and DeAngelis become obvious merely by examining the programs. This year, powerful lobbyists and Florida Republicans introduced House Bill 1 to open up the floodgates of government funding to homeschoolers and private schools. The original draft of the bill would have made tax-funded "Family Empowerment Scholarships" available to basically all students in Florida, including homeschoolers and those attending private schools.

But, as always, there was a big catch: In exchange for government money, the students receiving it would be required to take government-mandated tests aligned with Common Core, with results reported to authorities. The families would also be required to meet each year with a "choice navigator" to determine the educational "needs" of their tax-funded child. The aid was to be distributed by a government-aligned "non-profit" organization that received grants from Florida's leading LGBT extremist group even as it was seeking to impose its "woke" agenda on Christian schools.

Thanks to enormous pressure from the homeschooling community and other grassroots forces, some of the worst elements of the bill were removed, and the "choice navigator" meetings were made optional. But the danger remains. In fact, similar bills have proliferated in Republican legislatures nationwide. Virtually all of them impose new reporting, testing, and regulatory requirements on recipients of public funding.

Arizona's new universal ESAs to "fund students, not systems," being touted by "school choice" advocates nationwide as the best program since sliced bread, offers a cautionary tale. First of all, it does not really "fund students, not systems," explained former Arizona Superintendent of Public Instruction Diane Douglas. "Only students whose parents choose to apply for an ESA are directly funded," she told *The New American*. "Otherwise 'the system' is still being funded; traditional and charter districts will continue to receive their funding from the state based on enrollment."

Much more concerning, though, have been the effects. "Unfortunately I doubt that the legislators who passed this expansion, intending to offer parents greater choice, realize that they are just in fact ensnaring these children in a different form of government-controlled education and potentially endangering the autonomy of our private schools," continued Douglas,

AP Images

Follow the money: The toxic, federally backed Common Core standards have invaded many Christian and parochial schools, partly thanks to tax funding.

who has held almost every position in the state and local education system.

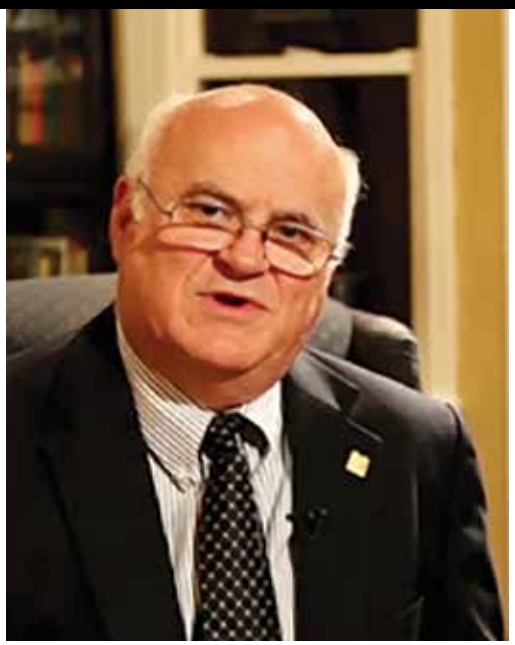
In Arizona, the state had no control of private schools, she said. But under the ESA program, government can impose requirements on the parents, and the control exercised over the parents can ultimately flow through them to the schools.

Even more alarming, homeschool families who take the government money are no longer even considered homeschoolers under state law, as those who reach for the money surrender their educational liberty and independence. Already, around 10 percent of homeschoolers in Maricopa County — a rough estimate so far — have been converted to government-funded "ESA" students under state law.

Adding insult to injury, the program hardly seems to have moved the needle in terms of getting children out of traditional government schools so far, but it is ensnaring thousands of former homeschool families in the government trap.

Charter schools are another example of the problems inherent with "school choice" schemes. While most data on charters do show slightly better academics, charter schools are still government schools, because they are funded by government. That means they generally must use Common Core and teach the same godless worldview that all other government schools teach.

Furthermore, data and research show that charter schools crowd out genuinely independent private schools. In fact, a study from the Cato Institute found that about one third of students entering charters in urban areas came from private schools. That type of loss can and does lead to private schools having to shut their doors; a Lutheran pastor in the New Orleans area told this writer he was forced to shutter his Christian school after a nearby charter pulled too many students away.



ExodusMandate

Wise words: Lieutenant Colonel E. Ray Moore (Ret.), who has led the charge for Christians to abandon government schools, warns that government funding will bring government control.

Government Takeover

Even in those systems that do not yet include broad reporting, testing, hiring, and curricular mandates on voucher recipients, one bad court ruling could jeopardize the entire community operating independently of government's "education" system. And American courts have ruled that government has not just the authority to regulate and oversee what it funds, but the responsibility to do so. Public money requires "accountability," after all.

"This is an historic Trojan Horse-type situation for K-12 private education," explained Lieutenant Colonel E. Ray Moore (Ret.), founder of the Exodus Mandate ministry to get Christian families to abandon government schools. "From Greek mythology the Trojan Horse was brought into the city of Troy to save the city, but it proved to be the cause of their destruction. When we reach for the money, the handcuffs go on. The danger to private education is incontrovertible."

Moore, who also chairs an alliance of dozens of ministries dubbed the Christian Education Initiative, warned that "Vouchers must be aggressively resisted by informed conservatives and Christians as an existential threat to the wellbeing of private education." "Even now K-12 private and Christian and home education is on the cusp of a major breakthrough, a tipping point, where we could experience a sudden rush into the new free-market and K-12 Christian education paradigm," he added.

Pointing to the millions of families who have fled the government system in recent years, Moore sounded optimistic about the future — if conservatives can prevent a government takeover of all education via government funding. "We could see the demise of Marxist state-sponsored K-12 public education in the next decade if we stay true and continue to drain the K-12 public education swamp and grow new K-12 Christian and home schools," he said. "Lets us not snatch defeat from the jaws of victory by accepting the nostrums of tax-funded vouchers."

The problem is hardly a hypothetical future issue. In numerous states across the country, government-funded scholarships may only be used at institutions that prohibit "discrimination" in hiring and admissions. Because those anti-discrimination schemes require Christian schools to hire open homosexuals and gender-confused individuals impersonating the opposite sex, there has already been litigation, and there will be much more.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, offered vouchers for Christian and private schools. However, they came with hundreds of regulations attached, including a prohibition on requiring Bible classes or chapel for voucher students. Similarly, Alaska introduced a program to offer financial assistance to homeschooling families that ended up being used by most homeschool families in the state. The only catch: No religious material or curricula allowed.

Prominent conservative attorney William Olson was recently commissioned by Moore's organization to write a legal report on this issue. Headlined "Government-Funded Vouchers Endanger Biblically Faithful Christian Education," the report cites a "long trail of cases" in which the U.S. Supreme Court found that even where government could not directly regulate private institutions, it could do so by imposing requirements and "strings" attached to public funding.

Olson first fell in love with the voucher idea after reading Milton Friedman in college. Working in the Nixon administration, he was enthusiastic about trying it out in New Hampshire, only to have the plan quashed by government-school forces, he explained to *The New American*. Then he read *Education, Christianity and the State*

by J. Gresham Machen and spoke with prominent conservatives, and radically changed his view.

"I came to be more concerned about protecting Christian education from the control of the state, than getting a piece of the pie for Christian schools," Olson said. "While there may have been a time when those controlling the purse strings of government funds would not abuse that power to undermine the Christian education they were funding, that time is past. I would rather have the Christian schools and home schools we have now, not required to bow at the altar of homosexual and transgender rights, than to have ten times as many such schools which were morally and biblically compromised."

Rick Boyer, an attorney who co-wrote the paper with Olson, pointed to Alberta's experiences in the 1990s as a cautionary tale. After the government began handing out $500 "scholarships" to homeschool families, draconian regulations followed the very next year under the guise of "accountability" for the public money being spent. "The lessons of history are too clear," he said. "You can have freedom, or you can accept government handouts. You cannot have both."

Other Problems

Another major concern with voucher and school-choice programs is that they are essentially welfare, promoting government dependence even for middle class, independent families.

Even buying the obviously phony assumption that those who created and built the system have good intentions and wish to educate children well, government-run education fails for the same reasons that collective farming and state-owned industries fail. Advocates of vouchers have correctly pointed out that it would be absurd to have the government run all grocery stores merely because some people cannot afford groceries.

Rather than have government-owned and -operated grocery stores, the government merely provides food stamps — or vouchers — to those who qualify. The same "food stamp" system could be done for education and schooling. This is a fair argument, of course, and this writer has used the argument many times.

But it rests on a few problematic assumptions. First, it assumes that it is the role of government to provide food (or education) to at least some people. Historically, the church and private charities have handled these sorts of responsibilities, including education, where individuals and families could not — and they did a much better job than the state ever could. Government stepping in has resulted in ever-greater levels of poverty, irresponsibility, and other problems. Secondly, school vouchers are being given to *all* families under this system, not just especially needy ones.

CEO Robert Bortins with Classical Conversations, a prominent organization providing classical Christian education to homeschoolers nationwide, highlighted this argument. "I think it is very basic. Who pays for it? If it's the government and outside of God's design it will not yield good outcomes," he told *The New American*. "We've seen this play out in higher education with low quality graduates and out of control student loan debt."

"What I've seen in states that have adopted universal school vouchers or similar programs is increased inflationary pressure and very few people in government schools leaving for a private option," he said. "It requires more state employees to administrate the programs. It opens the door for government interference into private [schools,] making them extensions of the state. It normalizes welfare for the middle class."

Citing Jesus' parable of building on the sand versus building on a rock, Bortins applied it to the current issues. "When we build structures on government funds we build on the sand," he said. "When we build using free-market principles we build on a rock. ESAs aren't a free market solution, they are Marxist-lite market manipulation techniques. They will fail and bring down the thriving private alternatives with them."

No strings attached: FreedomProject Academy, a classical online K-12 school affiliated with this magazine, has rejected government funding from day one.

Solutions

Of course, there are many organizations opposed to the vouchers and government funding. The Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), for instance, with its hundreds of thousands of member families, has been the tip of the spear when it comes to protecting homeschooling families from falling into the trap. Organizations representing some of the best Christian schools in the nation — groups such as the Association of

Classical Christian Schools — have also been sounding the alarm.

There are many schools that have refused to take government money. FreedomProject Academy, an online K-12 classical school affiliated with this magazine, has vowed from day one never to take a single penny of public funding, for the very reasons outlined above. And so, FPA, as it is known, is free to educate its students using methods that work, with a biblical focus on truth and morality. Like homeschooling families generally, FPA is able to provide a world-class education at a tiny fraction of the cost per pupil of government indoctrination centers.

But the threat of government control is growing with every passing day, as more and more Republican lawmakers, often cooperating with well-funded lobbyists, jump on the "school choice" bandwagon. Most Republican-controlled states currently have legislation being considered to create or expand such schemes, and many will undoubtedly pass them — at least if they do not hear from concerned citizens about the dangers.

Some lawmakers are pursuing non-refundable tax credits as a workable and less-dangerous alternative to tax-funded vouchers. That way, families can avoid having to pay for government schools they do not use while also having to pay for their own child's private or home education — but without the money ever becoming "public" money. Many churches and private organizations, such as the Good Soil Good Seed Foundation in Illinois, are popping up to offer scholarships, too. Free people can come up with solutions.

Rather than looking to government for help and other people's money, Americans must return to the biblical principle that children are the God-given responsibility of parents — not Caesar or even one's neighbors. This is true not just in terms of feeding and clothing, but in education, too. No one should feel entitled to seize money from his neighbor for the "education" of his children. Taking wealth from one's neighbor by force is wrong, even if it is being spent on an otherwise noble goal.

To the extent that some families might need assistance, Americans are the most generous people on the planet, and there are already countless charities and churches that can and do provide assistance. This was the norm before the advent of government-run "education." The idea of allowing the current ruling class in America — godless, in favor of tax funding for slaughtering babies, and worse — to "educate" their children today should be unthinkable to Americans.

Millions of families have fled the government's indoctrination centers in recent years, for obvious reasons. Unfortunately, at least some do not realize that, by taking government money, they are ultimately going to be sucked right back into the cesspool they escaped. Preserving genuine school choice — independent of government money and control — is one of the most important battles in the fight for freedom today. The well-being of the next generation, and therefore the future of America, depends on it. ■

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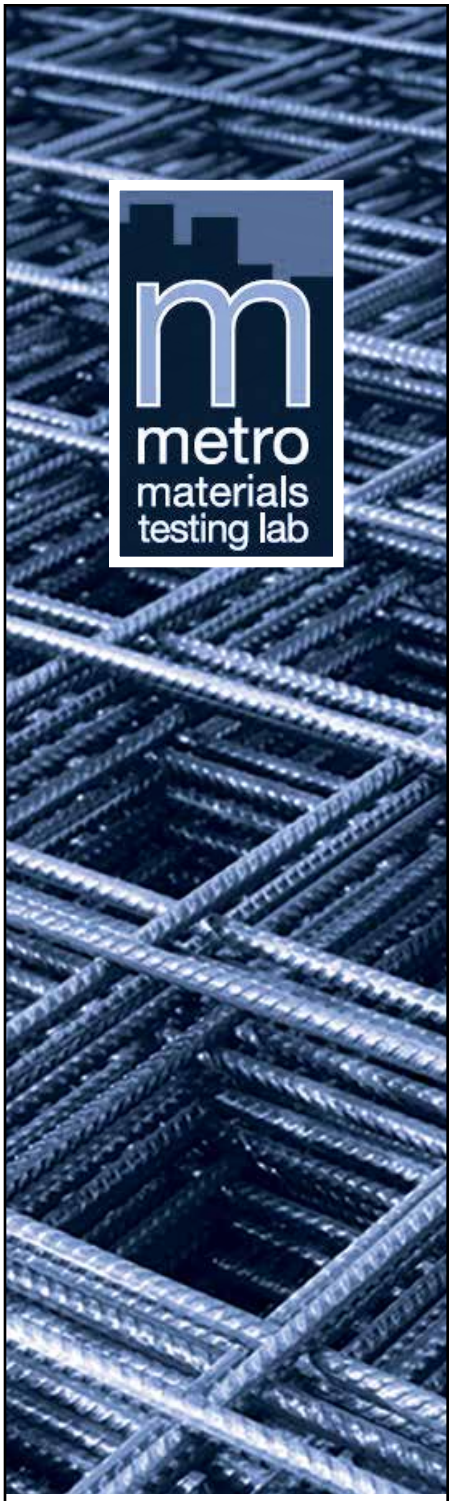

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Faith FAMILY FREEDOM

There Is No Hope for Government "Education"

by Paul Dragu

A few weeks ago, my 10-year-old son and I were discussing climate change at the dinner table. He really enjoys science — all of it, from chemistry to anatomy to astronomy. He has a collection of books on all sorts of science-y stuff, scattered all over the house, from the living room to the dinner table to his desk, and spilling over onto his bed. Oftentimes, he carries a couple books around like toys. If we go out, he might take his biochemistry and microbiology books, and he'll sit in the back seat and read aloud, after which he'll annoyingly quiz his parents. So it's no surprise that he'd want to talk about climate change. He had most likely been reading about it.

My son's interest in science became obvious after my wife introduced him to the Basher book series. My wife found the series as part of her never-ending quest for homeschool curricula. The first book she bought was on the Periodic Table, and thanks to the creative way the elements are presented in the book, my kid was off and running, rambling nonstop about radon and hydrogen and cobalt.

My son didn't always appear to be a whiz kid. He entered public-school kindergarten with a speech impediment. He required speech therapy, which he got. He also required maturity, so he repeated kindergarten.

But his second go-around in kindergarten went swimmingly. We wondered if it was just a result of the repetitive content, or if his genius was finally starting to manifest. After he entered first grade, he excelled there as well. His teacher said he was ahead in nearly all subjects. In some subjects, he was ahead by three grades. But he did have some "problems," she told us. It was his behavior. He didn't like doing classwork. It wasn't because he didn't know the content, though. When she sent him to the principal's office to finish it, she said, he did so rapidly, especially if recess was coming up. And it was done correctly, she added.

This sparked conversations about our son's education. We knew the one-size-fits-all government-school system was mediocre at best (later on, I learned it was much worse than that). At the time, I already believed government schools weren't designed for boys, with their requirement of sitting still inside for hours and the constant barrage of instructions, many seemingly designed just to create obedient citizens. I not only had a boy, but one who was abnormally energetic, dangerously rambunctious (he scraped himself in school multiple times), in possession of a voracious appetite for knowledge, and gregarious to a point that caused his very introverted parents to reconsider ever taking him out in public. This was no ordinary kid. But if we weren't careful, he might be turned into one. It was only a matter of time before "public school" would prove an impediment, rather than a catalyst, to cultivating his genius.

FatCamera/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Paul Dragu is the communications director for The John Birch Society and the host of the Freedom Is the Cure *podcast.*

The Covid Craze

Then, in March 2020, Covid-19 hit the world. The playgrounds were taped off, schools shut down, and teachers were passing out "learning packets" on the curb in front of the school. At home, my wife was trying to connect with teachers online. But it wasn't working. For starters, the school district's online "learning" system wasn't working well, for various reasons. Worse, now my son went from doing *some* busy work to *all* busy work.

After a few weeks of that nonsense, we withdrew him completely. There were two parents to one child, and we both worked flexible work schedules. We figured we could handle it. And we did, and by "we," I mean my wife. She even added a Bible-reading session in the mix. She and our son even built rockets and *papier-mâché* volcanos that erupted in our backyard.

Fall enrollment came around, and again we were idling at a crossroads. By then, we already knew the Covid "mitigation" edicts from the ivory towers of the federal government "public-health" institutions that snaked their way through our local health department into school policy yielded very little public health and were causing more harm than good. We lived in a Montana town with just under 10,000 people, with a 100-mile buffer of rural prairie on all U.S. sides. A couple hours east was the town newspapers had dubbed "the middle of nowhere," Glasgow. Despite our isolation, our little prairie town was not spared the Covid madness disease that bewitched the world.

But my wife and I were still — naïvely — holding out hope that sanity would prevail. I had spent multiple years as a reporter in our town. I knew many of the leaders and teachers in the school district. They were moral, seemingly sensible people who genuinely cared about students. They couldn't possibly continue perpetuating policies that were sure to cause lasting harm to children, we thought.

We were wrong. For starters, the school district required kids to wear masks. The data was already clear that tissue and cloth masks didn't restrict microbial aerosols, and that healthy children were at near-zero risk from Covid. This was enough reason for us to pull him out of the government-school system. But my son insisted on going. He wanted to play with other kids. We felt for him. We had yet to fully solve that part of the homeschool puzzle. So, we played along, letting him learn the hard way. This was a kid who couldn't even keep his mask on for a few hours on a plane.

My wife still has a video of him on his first day, his head resting on his desk, him crying, a mask hanging off his face, all snotty and damp. He had just learned that even at recess, he would have to "social distance." All upsides had faded.

The Homeschooling Alternative

That was the last time my son ever stepped foot inside a government school. A lot has changed since. For starters, I begin working for The John Birch Society and moved my family across the country. My wife is now fully dedicated to homeschooling our son. She's managed to join local homeschool groups, which get together regularly for fun and field trips, filling that void of interaction some use as an argument against homeschooling. We've made our son's education a priority, and although we make do with less, we are creating a richer future.

Our brilliant Founding Fathers were homeschooled by their parents or tutors. They also spent a lot of time with their parents, for education and work. Many went on to attend institutions of higher learning established by Christians to perpetuate Judeo-Christian-based education — institutions such as Yale and Harvard. There were no government schools in America for a very long time. And that was key to creating the most prosperous, freest nation ever.

That's all changed now. For more on how American education has gone wrong, I recommend *TNA's* education Special Reports, "Rescuing Our Children" and "Save Our Children." Another good resource on the topic is the book *Crimes of the Educators* by Alex Newman and the late Sam Blumenfeld.

What I've Learned

I've learned a lot since my son first attended kindergarten. The crux of it is that government schools are causing harm to our children, and they're designed in a way that quashes the genius all children are born with. The architects of government schools, people such as Horace Mann and John Dewey, were socialists who sought to create little socialists who would grow up into big adult socialists and turn America into one big, happy, socialist utopia.

Government schools have

vgajic/iStock/Getty Images Plus

Better option: Homeschooling is clearly a better option than putting children in the government schools. There are now more programs than ever for homeschool families, and while educating at home presents challenges, it's not as difficult as many parents might think.

wasted generations of American genius and are a leading reason for the chaos and national self-hate destroying our society today. Government schools are a major reason the United States is no longer on the promising path it once was. They are churning out generation after generation of Americans who don't know what it is to be American and can't compete on the academic stage.

The good news is that more than 1.2 million children have been pulled out of American government schools just in the last two years, which has regime propaganda outlets such as *The New York Times* freaking out. "With Plunging Enrollment, a 'Seismic Hit' to Public Schools" announced a May 17, 2022 *Times* article. We can only hope that "seismic hit" will end the government-school racket.

Schools pushing racist ideologies such as critical race theory and sexually perverted books have also made it easier for parents to justify saving their children.

And the recently released abysmal government-school test scores have not helped the government-school cause, either. "Test scores in elementary school math and reading plummeted to levels unseen for decades," reads the lead to a September 1, 2022, *Washington Post* article. The falloff is blamed on the "pandemic's toll." These academic declines happened at all performance levels. This is very bad, especially since even before Covid, there was not one academic category in which more than half of government-school students were proficient, according to the Nation's Report Card.

So, yes, enrollment is plunging. But not fast enough. In a perfect world, the schools would be emptied out tomorrow and the U.S. Department of Education shuttered for good.

Unfortunately, not all patriotic parents are convinced that government schools are a lost cause. Many still hold out hope for reform. When I talk to friends or family members about the dangers of government schools, one of the most common responses I hear is, "Yeah, but our school district is different. We have sane and good teachers. There's no CRT in our schools and no perverted books in our libraries."

First off, perverse books such as *Gender Queer* and *Body Music* have been popping up in school libraries without any notice, so you have no idea when your child's school will be next. And remember the insanity of Covid Mania? Nearly every single school district in the nation implemented social distancing, masking, and long shutdowns. They did this despite opposition from parents, and even teachers. Every district had opposing voices stating the obvious — that the measures would hurt their students more than the disease.

Yet the insanity marched on.

Why?

Covid Mania proves that having a district staffed by sane and reasonable people is not enough to overcome the machine. The machine puts so much pressure on educators that there is no way to resist. Many educators have retired in protest. All that did was take them out of the battle.

No matter how local and isolated your town and its school district are, if there is any connection to the Department of Education, the machine will have its way. When the corrupt CDC made its blanket recommendations, they were followed down to the underpaid nurse working in the Middle of Nowhere, Alaska, school district. When the Department of Education pushed its No Child Left Behind and Every Student Succeeds Acts, they were implemented from schools in Washington, D.C., to Rudyard, Montana, despite the large segment of educators who had no love for such schemes. When the teachers unions insisted that schools remain closed, that's what happened for a very long time, despite massive protests from parents across the country.

Centralized "education" is the enemy. It is not designed to do what it claims to do. And even if you disagree, you must recognize that it has been fully captured and is being weaponized as an indoctrination tool. By the time you were to reform it, assuming it could be reformed at all, your children and grandchildren would already

have been ground down by it. No matter how rural or different your district is, it's not as safe as you might think.

Pursuing Interests and Dreams

I started this article with a story about the time my son and I were discussing climate change at the dinner table. He knows the prevailing narrative on climate change. We don't shield him from it, either. What we do is tell him the other side of the story. He also knows the truth, that there is no consensus among scientists that humans are causing catastrophic environmental damage, only a globally coordinated propaganda campaign that keeps the masses from knowing about the thousands of scientists who aren't climate alarmists. He knows that the climate had been changing long before any factories or internal-combustion engines were even imagined. And he's not losing any sleep worrying that the planet will fall apart in a couple years.

How does he know this? Because he's homeschooled. At home, he reads and hears both sides of this debate.

At home, he's free to pursue his interests and dreams more than he was before, and that has led to him learning more than we can ever teach him. He also receives a sane, moral education on other topics, including sex and "gender." As his parents, we know when he's ready for that; no one is more qualified to teach children about sensitive topics than their parents. We don't shy away from any topic. And we make sure he develops godly morals and the ability to think rationally.

We are raising a child who can think; a child who'll be confident about who he is. The world needs smart, dangerous men, because the future is shaping up to be dangerously stupid.

I'll finish with this: The freest nation to ever exist was created by brilliant men educated at home. The most oppressive nations today mandate government education.

Saving our children from government schools is perhaps the most important act of patriotism Americans can take.

If you'd like to get your child out of government school but aren't sure where to begin — whether you're interested in homeschooling or private school — the JBS's Save Our Children From Public Schools action project exists to help with that. Check it out at jbs.org/children. And if you're considering a private school, look into FreedomProject Academy, a K-12 online school with live classes and a robust classical education program. ■

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Goal, Schmoal!

Eight-year-old Kayzen Hunter helped change the life of his favorite waiter, Devonte Gardner, in this sweet story out of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Hunter's favorite place to dine for breakfast is his local Waffle House, where he met and befriended Gardner more than a year ago. Eating at the Waffle House became a family tradition after Hunter started going with his grandfather, and the family had breakfast there nearly every weekend.

"When [Kayzen] came home, he talked about Devonte and how much he liked him," Kayzen's mom, Vittoria Hunter, told TODAY.com.

Gardner enjoys Kayzen's company as much as Kayzen enjoys his.

"Every time he comes in, I always give him a high five because that's what he expects," Gardner told TODAY.com.

"He's a wonderful kid," he added. "He tells me jokes every time he comes in."

Kayzen and his family got to know Gardner well over the last year and learned that his living situation was not great. Gardner had been living in a motel with his wife, Aissa, and two daughters, Jade, three, and Amoura, two, for the last eight months after the family left low-income housing.

"We just got tired of infestations with rats and roaches and all this black mold. My daughters were getting sick," Garner explained. "No heat and things like that. When it was cold outside, we had to bundle up with like four or five blankets in order to stay warm."

What's more, Gardner had no transportation to get to and from work and either walked or got rides. He told Kayzen's family he had been trying to save for a car but was set back by the motel expenses.

Kayzen wanted to do something to help Gardner improve his situation, so he came home and asked his mother to help him set up a GoFundMe page.

Kayzen and his family set a goal of $5,000 to help Gardner purchase a family vehicle.

"Hi, my name is Kayzen, I am 8 years old," starts the GoFundMe description.

"Devonte is a hard-working dad with two little girls and a wife. He is a dedicated worker and has to walk or get a ride to get to work every day," the page reads. "He was looking for a decent priced car, and his family was unfortunate and ended up in an apartment riddled with black mold. He had to get his kids out and it set him back a lot. We are now helping him get into a clean rental property and want to help him even more by raising funds so he has a reliable vehicle to drive his family and get to and from work."

Gardner's story touched a lot of hearts, and has shockingly surpassed $100,000, despite the modest goal.

For Gardner, the campaign has been life-changing. Because of the fundraiser, he was able to sign a lease on a two-bedroom apartment with a goal of eventually purchasing a home. He said he also plans to purchase a minivan for a family vehicle, and will save the rest of the money for his daughters.

"I want to put my daughters in a good school, I want them to be in a good environment," Gardner said. "Everything I'm getting is going mostly towards my daughters to make sure they have a great, great life. Make sure we won't have to struggle anymore."

Surprise!

Delayne Ivanowski, 25, proved the strength of a daughter's love for her father when she secretly donated a kidney to her ailing father in spite of his repeated objections.

Ivanowski told ABC News that the donation was the culmination of a nine-month plan that she plotted after her father, John, repeatedly refused to accept her offer to donate her kidney. John, who suffered from kidney disease and spent four days a week on dialysis, lost a son to cancer 16 years ago and was terrified of losing his daughter. He preferred to risk years of dialysis waiting for a kidney over taking a kidney from his only remaining child.

"I thought, I lost my boy and if anything happened to Delayne, I don't know what I would do," he said, according to WJNT. "It was a big concern."

But Ivanowski knew that her father's quality of life diminished dramatically because of the dialysis, and she desperately wanted to help, so she had to get creative.

"I was like, 'I'm going to do it. I don't care how mad he is at me. I don't care if he kicks me out of the house or hates me or doesn't say a word to me for the rest of my life,'" she told ABC News. "At least he'll be living a good life and not hooked up to a machine."

Some months later, Ivanowski got approval to be her dad's donor. This included countless medical tests and blood work at the same clinic as her dad, all without him knowing.

When John got word that an anonymous donor was a kidney match, he was shocked.

"I about dropped the phone," he recalled to ABC News. "People can be on the [kidney waiting] list for five, six, seven, eight years and go through dialysis for that long, and I just couldn't believe it."

According to Dr. Jason Wellen, there are more than 100,000 people waiting for a kidney transplant in the country currently.

"The one way we can get people transplanted within a few months is if they come to us with a living donor," Wellen told ABC News.

To help keep the donation a secret, hospital staff had to take special precautions to ensure John did not see his daughter during preop on the day of the February 16 transplant.

After John's successful procedure, he was in for the shock of his life when his daughter walked into his hospital room in a hospital gown following the surgery. Video footage captured the tearful moment in which John realized that his daughter was the anonymous donor.

Both John and Delayne are recovering well, and John is already feeling the effects of having a working kidney again. Delayne is hopeful that her story inspires others to consider becoming living donors.

"If anything, I've saved one life and hopefully I can, with awareness and other things, save other lives by encouraging people to become donors or to take that next step and go get the testing done to become a match," she told WJNT. ■

— Raven Clabough

Armed Repercussions

WFLA.com reported out of Haines City, Florida, on January 27 about a burglary attempt that was interrupted when a homeowner returned to his residence.

Haines City Police Chief Gregory Goreck explained what occurred in a press conference, stating that the homeowner and his girlfriend returned to their residence around 1:45 a.m. only to discover two intruders in the kitchen. The homeowner was lawfully carrying a concealed firearm, so he pulled it out and shot at the suspect closest to him. The homeowner then ran from the house, along with his girlfriend and their dog, and called 911.

The homeowner cooperated with arriving officers, and Chief Goreck said that based "on the totality of the evidence at this time, it does appear to be a case of Stand Your Ground." Goreck also said that when police arrived at the house, the suspects had fled but police were able to follow a trail of blood droplets outside the home.

Law enforcement used dogs to track the scent to a nearby park, where they discovered a wounded suspect suffering from four gunshot wounds. "Even though this was a felon who had been illegally inside someone's house, [police] immediately changed focus, changed gears, and went from a search and locate and apprehend, to saving this individual's life…. They were able to stop the bleeding enough so that when he was finally airlifted to a trauma center ... that at this moment he's still alive," Goreck explained in the press conference.

The suspect was identified as a career criminal with a long record of theft, burglary, and prowling, and is now facing charges of burglary to a residence and grand theft. The investigation is ongoing, and police are still looking for the second suspect. Goreck warned would-be burglars, "If you are brazen enough to enter into someone's residence and it is not yours, with intent to commit an unlawful act, there may be repercussions…. We live in Florida, and more so, we live in Polk County, and most people are armed."

Carjacker Gets Gun Snatched

Fox News reported on December 10 about a carjacking in North Las Vegas that ended with a shootout after the victim grabbed the carjacker's gun. A woman and her female friend had driven to another friend's house and were parked in the street waiting to get out of the car when another car parked right in front of them. Two men jumped out and tried stealing their vehicle, pulling both women from the vehicle at gunpoint. One of the carjackers jumped into the driver's seat.

The woman who had been driving noticed the would-be carjacker was struggling with starting the car, since it was a push-to-start vehicle. He even placed his gun on his lap as he tried to figure it out. The woman then grabbed the gun from his lap and ran, telling her friend to run, too. The carjacker jumped out of the car and tackled the woman to get his gun back, but she fired a shot to stop him from attacking, mortally wounding him. The other man began shooting at the woman, who ran and hid in a nearby yard. The man then jumped into the vehicle he originally arrived in and drove away, leaving his accomplice dying in the street.

The North Las Vegas Metropolitan Police soon arrived to find the deceased suspect and the woman hiding nearby. After a lengthy investigation, the accomplice in the carjacking was arrested and charged with "kidnapping, conspiracy to commit robbery, attempted robbery with a deadly weapon, burglary with the use of a deadly weapon and attempted grand larceny of a vehicle." He is being held on bail.

Naked Woman Meets Gun

Breaking911 reported on March 6 that a homeowner in Austinville, Virginia, got an unexpected visit from a stranger wearing her birthday suit.

The homeowner heard a noise coming from the rear of his house, and when he went to investigate, he found a naked woman entering his house through the back door. The woman then began striking the homeowner with a cast-iron frying pan. The man fought back and shoved the woman back out of the house, but she wouldn't stop her attack. She then began shutting off electrical breakers from the back of the house and pounding on the kitchen window while screaming about how she was going to kill the homeowner. The homeowner was in fear for his life, so he retrieved a firearm and shot the woman in the leg.

The woman was treated for her gunshot wound, and was later charged with "felony breaking and entering, assault and battery, and property damage." Law enforcement officials confirmed that they believe the shooting was in self-defense, and they do not expect there to be any charges against the homeowner.

"The National Gun of America"

While some Democrats are doing everything in their power to make AR-15-style rifles seem dangerous and scary to average Americans, some Republicans are pushing back and embracing the so-called assault weapon as a symbol of defiance. WHNT reported on February 22 that Representative Barry Moore (R-Ala.) introduced a bill that would make the AR-15 the "National Gun of America."

Representative Moore promoted his bill on Twitter, tweeting that "The #SecondAmendment is as American a right as freedom of speech, religion, & the press…. Today I unveiled my bill to make the AR-15 the National Gun of America. We must send a message that we will meet every attack on any of our constitutional rights."

The move came after some Republicans caused an outrage among anti-gun leftists by wearing AR-15 lapel pins. Representative Andrew Clyde (R-Ga.) took credit for the pin on Twitter, where he posted that he has been giving "it out to remind people of the Second Amendment of the Constitution and how important it is in preserving our liberties. If I missed you on the House floor, please stop by my office [because] I have plenty more to give out!" ■

— Patrick Krey

THE REVIEW

Blasting Big Tech Monopolies

by William P. Hoar

Crushed: Big Tech's War on Free Speech, by Ken Buck, West Palm Beach, Florida: Humanix Books, 2023, 224 pages, hardcover.

Engaging in shady business practices is one thing. Suppressing free speech in the digital public square is another. What happens when monopolies are hip-deep into these and other predatory activities that are plainly detrimental to the nation?

The author of *Crushed*, who describes himself as a hard-core conservative, relates how he found himself torn over how to react toward the application of antitrust laws against Big Tech companies. Readers who believe deeply in free markets may also be of two minds as they crack open this book.

It's worth waiting for the evidence. Weigh it.

What is charged? Well, as Senator Ted Cruz (R-Texas) summarizes the allegations in the volume's foreword, the author demonstrates that Big Tech has been involved in "egregious abuses of power — from censorship, discrimination, and political favoritism to self-preferencing, self-dealing and predatory, anticompetitive efforts."

The targets of the book include some of the largest, richest, most influential companies, both domestically and internationally: Apple, Facebook, Google, and Amazon. Activities by Twitter (pre-Elon Musk) are also covered.

You undoubtedly know some of the background, but probably will be startled at specifics that reveal just how much these firms do control — and how much more they want.

When Markets Aren't Free and Open

Representative Ken Buck, the author of *Crushed: Big Tech's War on Free Speech*, is a Republican who has served Colorado's 4th District since 2015. A graduate of Princeton and the University of Wyoming Law School, he is also a former federal prosecutor. Indicative of his ideology, Buck serves on the House Freedom Caucus in Congress.

More to the immediate point, it was what he learned as ranking member of the House Antitrust Subcommittee beginning with a field hearing in 2020 that dramatically changed many of his views. Hence his crusade and this book. A hearing in Boulder in particular (we get some of the lowlights) left him outraged and even frightened. What was happening in the country, including the "examples of monopoly power and abuse," was, in his words, "challenging my hardwired assumptions about free and open markets intrinsically fixing themselves."

Following the hearing, "I still believed that," recounts Buck. However, what

> I no longer believed was that the market was free and open when Big Tech was concerned: Where monopolies tread, censorship and the threat to

> liberty is sure to follow. And this was doubly worrying because Big Tech is laser-focused on the software and devices that allow us to communicate and share bold thinking in the marketplace of ideas.

Buck comes back to this theme repeatedly, from different vantage points. Many chapters in, after he has laid out a litany of examples, Buck again emphasizes that he is not anti-profit; not anti-business; and, in particular, still pro-competition. Yet, he also maintains that when the companies "controlling the platforms for free speech and political speech use their power to become arbiters of permissible speech, it is a threat to American liberty guaranteed in the Constitution."

The arguments made, and remade, are strong and well-defined. The language is clear. These corporate giants are monopolies, in the author's view, asserting that their "concentrated power and foundational technologies make them the gatekeepers to the marketplace of ideas."

The dangers he describes are real. It is up to readers to decide whether Buck's appeal for government remedies is conclusive.

Big Tech in Action

It used to be said that business is made good by yearning, learning, and earning. These days, when it comes to companies leaning on algorithms and artificial intelligence, what seems more important is which messages get spurned and which get affirmed — especially when it comes to advertising and politics.

A few of the examples found in the book underscore these points. Consider how Apple pulled an app called HKmap.live that was being used by protesters in Hong Kong to duck being arrested or beaten by authorities. The Chinese Communist Party didn't like that, so the company removed the app.

Can't happen here? How about when the conservative social-media app Parler was pulled following the January 6 rioting in the Capitol? It was only permitted back after Parler changed its content-moderation policy.

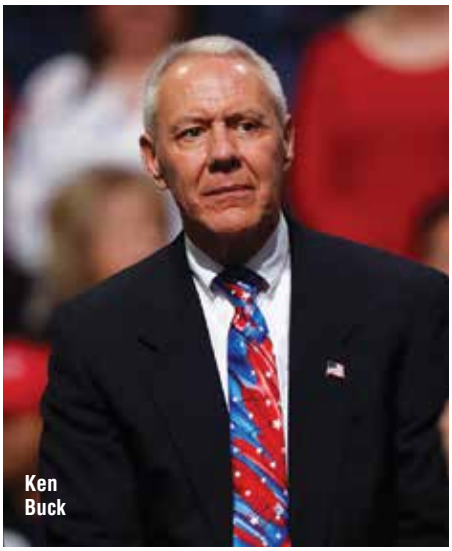
Here's another, even more consequential, example related by the author, depicting Big Tech's influence in action. During the runup to the "2020 presidential election, both Facebook and Twitter actively prevented potentially damaging *New York Post* reports about Joe Biden's son Hunter from reaching the press." A year later, "after the election was over and Biden was in the Oval Office," the CEO of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, "admitted the so-called hacking offense was nonexistent and silencing the *Post* was a 'mistake.'"

We are also reminded that, at various times, former President Donald Trump was suspended by Facebook (owned by Meta), Instagram (an acquisition of Facebook/Meta), YouTube (owned by Google, whose parent is Alphabet), and Twitter.

Opinions get suppressed regularly by these corporations. Can private companies get away with this? One might argue that, but what happens when what amounts to a cartel works hand-in-hand with the government to ban and censor those said to be distributing "misinformation." Many of the targets of Big Tech and the government are conservatives, of course. (And keep in mind that many of the impolitic opinions and contentions rejected by the powers-that-be at one point have since been found to be accurate.)

As we read in *Crushed*, Republican Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky has

> found himself locked out of his Facebook page for "repeatedly going against our community standards," suspended from Twitter for questioning the effectiveness of masks, and had videos removed from YouTube…. [In 2021, Republican Senator] Ron Johnson from Wisconsin … was temporarily blocked from YouTube for comments about COVID treatments. And U.S. Representative Jim Banks of Indiana was suspended for two weeks after mocking Time magazine for giving the Woman of the Year award to a "biological male."



Ken Buck

AP Images

One is reminded of Orwell's dystopian *1984* in which Oceania, where the story takes place, had "always been at war against Eastasia" — even though Oceania had been at war with Eurasia for years and allied with Eastasia before the propaganda line switched abruptly. The corresponding Orwellian point is, "Who controls the past controls the future. Who controls the present controls the past."

There is, as Buck notes, a "fine line between 'content moderation' and 'censorship.'" If this reminds you of the work of a Ministry of Truth, you are not alone in the sentiment.

Collusion Leads to DoJ Reaction

Battle lines do blur and move. Not all issues are black and white. There are, in the view of this reviewer, a few insubstantial spots in *Crushed*. It seems to be overkill, for instance, to claim that "the destruction of the newspaper industry is tied to the ubiquity of Google search and the power of its ad platform." Sure, there may be correlation, but is that utter, calculated causation?

One can sympathize, but it's an overstatement to blame all this on "Big Tech" because it "has stripped local newspapers and magazines of the advertising dollars these community institutions rely on to survive." Presumably the radio industry could — and no doubt did — say the same about the rise of television.

When Buck (and Senator Cruz in the foreword) compares "Big Tech monopolies" with the "robber barons of yesterday," it may be a good line for a prosecutor (Buck's former role), but it appears hyperbolic when it comes to at least some of the widely reproached historic "robber barons" and certain antitrust activities.

Meanwhile, in the case of *Crushed*,

there are still instances where the government and Big Tech are pulling in different directions — as is Buck in his congressional antitrust endeavors.

Indeed, Buck salutes the Department of Justice in that it "finally decided enough was enough" in 2020, when (along with 11 state attorneys general) it filed a civil antitrust lawsuit "to stop Google from unlawfully maintaining monopolies through anticompetitive and exclusionary practices in search and search advertising markets and to remedy the competitive harms."

In the Buck's view, there seemed to be one relationship in particular that infuriated the DoJ. Buck recounts that Google

> struck "long-term agreements with Apple [requiring] Google to be the default — and de facto exclusive — general search engine on Apple's popular Safari browser and other Apple search tools." In other words, Google, which owns the most popular mobile operating system, did a deal with the owner of the second most popular operating system to become the default search engine on Apple's phones.

This collusion also helps to consolidate power, contends Buck. He does note that both companies "insist that this was business as usual. But that's the point: America has lost the plot when unfair becomes usual."

AP Images

Controlled speech: Once considered free-speech platforms, Big Tech sites such as Facebook (now owned by Meta) have actively engaged in censorship of "unapproved" speech, even going so far as suppressing speech in order to influence U.S. elections.

What Comes Next?

Chapters in *Crushed* concentrate on, among others, free markets and free speech; how Big Tech's patent battles have hurt innovation; Apple, its self-referencing, and the App Store's restrictive policies; Facebook's mergers and acquisitions; Google's advertising policies and collusion; Amazon's monopolistic abuses; and the optics in the nation's capital ("The Swamp" being one chapter title), including its denizens' personal connections to these huge businesses.

Buck suggests some actions not only for citizens (including seeking alternative products), but also for Congress. Among the latter: Clarify rules against predatory pricing by monopolies; require Big Tech monopolies to prove mergers and acquisitions are pro-competitive; and prohibit self-preferencing from hindering free speech.

There was limited progress against illegal antitrust activities during the last Congress when the Democrats held top key positions. Buck also points to a referral sent to the attorney general in 2022, alerting him to possible criminal conduct by Amazon and its executives. The letter is lengthy, linked in its entirety with a key extract reprinted in the book. It was co-signed by Buck, as then-ranking member of the Antitrust Subcommittee. As he recounts, the 24-page referral letter pointed to

> Amazon's disturbing business practices and equally disturbing evasions. From our point of view, as legislators charged with writing and upholding the law to serve the nation, Amazon deserved to be penalized for lying to Congress.

Drawing these lines in the sand, he stresses, was "not a line I took lightly." As Buck writes, "I've been clear: I like when government steers clear of the marketplace. But when companies conspire to control the marketplace, to squash innovation and avoid competition, then markets are no longer free. And when markets are no longer free, society is no longer free."

Whether the work that got through the subcommittee eventually receives a vote in the next Congress remains to be seen. Though Buck was previously ranking member, under the new Republican-led House he did not become chairman of the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust. (These actions took place after the book's completion.)

Rather, he and Representative David Cicilline (D-R.I.), the chairman of the subcommittee in the last Congress, have since announced the formation of the Congressional Antitrust Caucus. According to Buck, the caucus "will give members of Congress who care about holding monopolies accountable and encouraging competition in the Big Tech marketplace an opportunity to bring competition policy to the Congress and to the minds of the American people."

Ken Buck believes that the case against Big Tech is "open and shut." *Crushed* could well help provide a key. Yet, as he puts it at the book's end, the effort "needs to get to the floor of the House and Senate: the marketplace of legislative ideas." ■

TAKING ACTION

Create Wisdom-seekers and Not Smart Alecks

by William S. Hahn, CEO of The John Birch Society

While commuting to the office of The John Birch Society (parent organization of *The New American*), I have some substantial windshield time each day. I greatly enjoy spending part of that time listening to Christian programming, including church sermons from various denominations.

I particularly enjoy listening to the late Adrian Rogers of Love Worth Finding Ministries. He had so many good, timeless quips.

Proverbs 9:10 records for us: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." In one of his related sermons, Rogers said, "Knowledge comes from looking around; wisdom comes from looking up."

He also said, "Knowledge is proud that it knows so much. Wisdom is humble that it knows so little!"

And finally, "Wisdom is seeing life from God's point of view!"

The Bible foretells an enormous amount of information, or knowledge, that will come about during the last days, or end times. However, wisdom and knowledge are two different things. You may have heard the saying, "Wisdom is knowledge, rightly applied." The proper application of knowledge yields wisdom, but it is possible to be knowledgeable without being wise, if there is no application of that knowledge.

This is a long, drawn-out way of making the point that if kids are going to school to learn facts, figures, and dates of events without knowing how to apply them, then it is likely they will not possess wisdom. For example, we see a bunch of smart alecks who can spout climate-change "facts" without the critical-thinking skills to challenge such nonsense, leading them to think that man has caused climate change and man must save the planet by radically altering society. But it doesn't have to be that way.

For more than 10 years, The John Birch Society has had an affiliate that has run a K-12 online school focused on wisdom — teaching kids how to think, not what to think. FreedomProject Academy has an award-winning formula that pulls in the best teachers with the best teaching methods focused on reading, writing, and arithmetic — a classical education steeped in the tradition of the Founding Fathers. This is what they would have learned in their homeschool studies.

Hundreds of students have graduated from FPA, ready to join the next generation of leaders. They have the advantage of knowing how to use critical-thinking skills to enable them to see the truth. They understand the difference between a republic and a democracy, that rights do not come from government, and how the American system is set up to protect God-given rights.

FreedomProject Academy has found a substantial academic gap between public-school students and FPA students of the same grade level. Sometimes this gap can span several grades, especially when evaluating reading abilities. This trend is getting worse, and is leaving good students behind. Don't let this happen to your child. FPA has three academic tracks: FPA Live, FPA Anytime, and FPA Homeschool. Live and Anytime are tracks to earning a high-school diploma from the school, while FPA Homeschool relies on the parent to be accountable for the diploma.

FPA Live is the track my son is enrolled in. He attends four days a week by logging into classes that are taught live online. He's in class for about three hours a day, and uses the rest of the day for homework. Fridays are also used for homework and student clubs. Teachers are required to hold office hours in case students need additional help, and classes are recorded, so students can access them in case they want to watch them again.

FPA Anytime offers curriculum via recorded classes, so students can go at any pace they choose and don't have to attend a class at a specific time. Plenty of homework is generated here, too.

FPA Homeschool gives parents the option of using the recorded curriculum, but without FPA tests, quizzes, and grades. Those are left up to the parent in true homeschool fashion.

Costs are much lower than you'd expect, and tuition assistance is available, especially for larger families. Check out fpeusa.org for additional information and costs. Fall enrollment begins April 11 for new families, and April 4 for existing FPA students.

One of the best things you can do is give your child a solid foundation of truth. Take action and enroll your child or grandchild for this fall at FreedomProject Academy. ■

FEATURED PRODUCTS

Government Schools vs. Christianity — Reprint

Government indoctrination masquerading as "education" has deliberately waged war on biblical religion, and the fruits are devastating America and its children. (2021, 8pp, 1-24/$0.50ea; 25-99/$0.40ea; 100+/$0.35ea) **RPGSVC**

The Communist Manifesto — Book

The basic historical document by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels sets forth the principles of communism that still haunt the world today, though not always under the name "communism." (2009ed, 60pp, pb, 1-9/$5.95ea; 10-24/$5.25ea; 25-99/$4.95ea; 100+/$4.25ea) **BKCM**

The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates — Book

The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates provides proven guidelines for proper and legitimate resistance to tyranny, often without causing any major upheaval in society. The doctrine teaches us how to rein in lawless acts by government and restore justice in our nation. (2013, 115pp, pb, 1/$13.95; 2-4/$12.95ea; 5-9/$11.95ea; 10+/$10.95ea) **BKDLM**

The Invisible Government — Book

The Invisible Government discusses the Council on Foreign Relations, perhaps the most politically influential group in the nation, which was founded to bring Marxist socialism into this country. Written by author Dan Smoot in 1962, it explains how "Communists in government during World War II formulated major policies which the Truman administration followed" and that "the policies continued, under Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson," controlled by the same group. (2020ed, pb, 291pp, 1-4/$9.95ea; 5-9/$8.00ea; 10-23/$6.50ea; 24-39/$5.95ea; 40+/$4.95ea) **BKTIG**

Animal Farm — Book

A political tale about a group of farm animals who overthrow their master to run the farm themselves. They set out to create a paradise of progress, justice, and equality. Great for grown-ups who love a riveting fiction book. (1996ed, 128pp, pb, 1/$8.95ea; 2+/$7.95ea) **BKAF**

1984 — Book

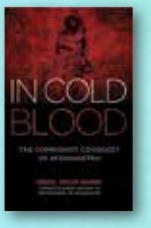
Orwell warns against a nightmarish world of the foreseeable future. He describes in horrifying detail a time when the state reigns supreme and the words "individualism" and "dignity" are nowhere to be found in the politically correct vocabulary of "Newspeak." Originally published in 1949. (1990ed, 328pp, pb, 1/$8.95ea; 2+/$6.95ea) **BK1984**

Benedict Biden: Water Carrier for the New World Order — Book

This book reveals Biden's startling agenda in his own words and actions — his program for making America over into only a cog in the "New World Order" (his words, not ours) — and explains what can be done about it. (2022ed, 151pp, pb, 1-11/$7.95ea; 12-23/$5.95ea; 24-63/$3.95ea; 64+/$2.95ea) **BKBBNWOWC**

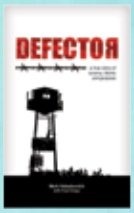
The Problem With Socialism — Book

From debunking the theories and narratives that underpin socialism and socialist programs, to outlining a powerful case for freedom and free markets, *The Problem With Socialism* can serve as an excellent resource to educate Americans. (2016ed, hb, 226pp, 1/$18.95ea; 2-4/$17.95ea; 5+/$15.95ea) **BKPWS**



In Cold Blood: The Communist Conquest of Afghanistan— Book

This book, written by a former official in various Afghan governments, Abjul Halim Shams, provides the reader with a short history of Afghanistan leading up to the Soviet invasion. Afghanistan, wracked by communist-inspired turmoil, soon found itself occupied by a cruel and ruthless enemy who sought to destroy the culture and religion of the country. Abdul documents the economic measures meant to tie Afghanistan even closer to the USSR, the theft of its natural resources, and the use of the KHAD, the Red Afghan secret police. (2021ed, pb, 128pp, 1-5/$7.95; 6-10/$5.95; 11-27/$3.95; 28+/$2.95) **BKICB**



Defector: A True Story of Tyranny, Liberty, and Purpose — Book

When Mark Hobafcovich finally escaped the tyranny of communist Romania, the political freedoms he found opened the door to unimaginable spiritual freedom. Now he shares his captivating journey from defector to disciple — a call to action for those living in the light of liberty. (2021ed, pb, 168pp, 1-5/$7.95ea; 6-10/$5.95ea; 11-27/$3.95ea; 28+/$2.95ea) **BKD**

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